




Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio



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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

JANUARY 1, 1977

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ANOTHER YEAR!

Another year! the future path lies hidden,
And shadows seem to fall across the way;
Press on! a light before thee shineth
Yet more and more unto the perfect day.

Another year! the days are growing evil,
And Satan, threat'ning, dark forebodings send;
Fear not! thy Lord hath surely spoken,
"Low, I am with you, e'en unto the end."

Another year! the land is parched and thirsty;
Our souls are faint, low droops the precious grain;
Plead on! Elijah's God will answer,
And pour, in mighty floods, the latter rain.

Another year! we wait with eager longings;
The hour is late, midnight comes on apace;
Look up! redemption's day is dawning;
Perhaps this year we'll see our Bridegroom's face!

Selected from The Vindicator

OUR THOUGHTS

At the beginning of this new year we have the opportunity to reflect on the year which has so swiftly passed and to anticipate the coming year. By meditating on the past year, we may learn from our mistakes and appreciate the loving care God has lavished on us. By looking ahead, we can resolve to live the new year in a manner pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Our thinking, however, is not limited to one season of the year. Our thoughts are constant. We really can do nothing to hinder or to encourage their coming. Are your thoughts pleasing to God?

Proverbs reminds us that "as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." We look for the good fruit on the strong healthy tree not on the scrawny, sickly tree. Likewise the thoughts of men depend on what is in his heart. If the heart has been given to the Lord, good thoughts should be the fruit of that heart. But just as even the strong, productive tree needs to be pruned and cared for, so the thoughts of even a godly man need to be watched and filtered. The enemy of our souls works hard to bring his evil and lustful thoughts to the mind of the godliest.

To protect against this devilish work, the Apostle Paul gives a test or a filter for our thoughts, so they will be acceptable to God. Paul's filter is found in Philippians 4:8. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." If our thoughts can pass the test of all (not just one or some) of these qualifications, they will

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

be acceptable to God. Some of our natural thoughts might pass one or some or even most of the conditions laid down by Paul, but only godly thoughts will pass all. Like every test laid down in God's Word, this one is hard to pass; God does not desire the faint-hearted and the hypocritical.

The thoughts of the ungodly can not pass this test. First because their interests are such that they do not want to have thoughts like these. Second, this test is designed by Paul for the brethren - believers. Unbelievers do not have the kind of heart capable of producing godly thoughts any more than the thistle can bring forth grapes or any other edible fruit.

The tests Paul gives for our thoughts are simple and easily understood and yet so hard to pass. In a day of much falsehood and deception our minds are to be occupied with what is true. All around are falsehoods, "white-lies" and half-truths but God's truth is to be our standard.

Honesty is needed not only in the market place but also in our lives. If our thoughts are on "cutting corners" "fast buck" schemes and fraud, our actions will soon betray those thoughts.

Justice is often sought by the world but can never be found regardless of the number of laws enacted. Justice comes from the heart that is attuned to God's ideal of justice which is without prejudice or partiality.

Purity is in short supply these days. The dress, manners and morals of the vast majority of this world are impure, yet only the pure in heart have the promise of seeing God. Satan brings the impure before our eyes and our minds that we might be distracted from God's standard.

The hatred and warfare of this world is legendary. It is easy to allow unkind thoughts into our minds. But God demands thoughts full of love. We are to love even our enemies so there is no place in our thoughts for hatred.

Many wish to do anything and everything that appeals to them. They have no concern for the opinion of the godly or of the Church. The Church has passed its decree upon many issues, so we can know what is of good report.

Virtue has nearly disappeared not only in dress and morals but in most activities of life. Little is done for the good of others but mostly for recreation and self-pleasure. Our thoughts are to be on the good and promotion of others.

Praise is lavished on many who do not deserve it. Our thoughts should be guided to give praise and commendation where godliness is upheld in a life.

Will your thoughts pass Paul's test? The beginning of this new

year is a good time to prune the dead wood from your thoughts and to dig out the briars and the thistles. First, be sure your heart is right with God, then use Paul's thought-filter, so your thoughts will please Him this year.

SOUTH FULTON

A Sermon by Bro. W. S. Reed

I believe that when God looks down on a group of His people, singing and praising Him, it brings joy to Him.

When Jesus was on earth He wept. Why? Because of disobedience. He pled with man to lay aside his idols and worship the true and living God. They only made fun of Him and spit on Him. No wonder He fell on His knees in Gethsemane and shed bitter tears. I wonder, if in Heaven He looks down today at the evil on earth and weeps.

Text: Jeremiah 1:1-19

God's Judgment Against Judah

This prophecy was by Jeremiah for the children of Israel, but all scripture was written for our instruction and admonition. How we should obey God and Jesus! His Word reveals plainly the result of disobedience and the awards of obedience.

God gave the prophets, His Word to carry to all people. The question has been asked, "when should a child be started to be trained?" The answer has been given, "six months before he is born." Jeremiah was "ordained a prophet unto the nations" before he was formed. God prepared him for this work.

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet, a type of Christ. Christ wept because of the people's sins. So did Jeremiah. He was also a type of Moses. Moses saw the burning bush not being consumed. He went to see it and out of the flames God spoke to him. He told him He would send him to deliver His children out of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey. Both Moses and Jeremiah said, "Oh, my Lord, I cannot speak." God answered them, "I will be with thee, I will teach thee what thou shalt say."

Jeremiah proved what a great prophet he was. He went forth and preached powerfully and suffered much. He said he was not ashamed of the power of God unto salvation. This power is not extended to those who do not believe. God told Jeremiah, "I am with thee to deliver thee." He touched his mouth and put words in his mouth.

Jeremiah was not speaking his own words. Neither should we today speak our own words. If our words are not God's they are worth nothing. We trust the inspiration of God to give us the right

wisdom to speak. God said, "...I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build and to plant." That is, to destroy all the works of Satan, all idols, sin and evil.

Like earth with rocks and brush, a garden will not grow without full preparation. God uses the same plan to prepare our hearts by destroying evil beliefs so that His work may advance. Make ready then and plant the words He giveth. In the parable of the sower some seed fell by the wayside, some among thorns and stony places. The seed that fell on good ground, that is the prepared soil, that seed brought forth a good harvest. That is our purpose in gathering together for worship, preaching and teaching, to make preparations so the Word of God can grow. A group of Christians serving and praising God and bringing forth fruit can be compared to a beautiful garden.

Jeremiah was a man subject to God because he gave his heart to God. How sad it made him feel to see people turning to idols and fables. When he saw it, like Jesus, he wept bitterly. They turned a deaf ear to God's Word and would not hear Jeremiah.

What is more rewarding and comforting to a good preacher than to see people turn away from sin to come to righteousness and hear the truth. It seems after Jeremiah taught and preached and had done all he could, it brought sorrow. We can apply it today. According to the actions of the people it appears they have provoked the Lord to anger with strange vanities.

Jeremiah wanted the people to be "heart-cleansed." He lived it but the people were impenitent. He was hurt for the "hurt of the daughter of my people." The only hope they had, they would turn a deaf ear to. The prophet thought of the everlasting torment and destruction for this rebellious people. Mercy is here but they won't hear.

Why? Why?

Why such sad and sorrowing conditions when salvation is so near. He asked again, "is there no balm in Gilead"? That healing balm that will heal every sin in the world - an absolute cure. All teaching of the Word is balm to heal sins, but they refused to permit it to be applied to their body and soul for healing. No wonder he wept and despaired.

Let us apply this balm to our lives. None of us want to die. How much effort we go to, to sustain natural life for ourselves and our loved ones - we spend all the money available. We wait weeks and months for an appointment for a doctor to cure us.

How many go to the Great Physician for healing Spiritual ills? The surroundings reveal how few go to the Church for healing of

diseases. Sad, isn't it?

The efforts of Jeremiah brought little results. What results do we get? Sometimes results are small. Yet we are to keep on and not faint. The Word is far-reaching. Our efforts may reach farther than we know. Always we ask God to deliver our messages; it is beyond our ability to reach those God would have to hear His Word.

"Oh, that mine eyes were a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." It is enough to cause one to weep, after all his efforts, the daughter of Zion was lost. Jeremiah thought, "What good has all my work done?"

There are great lessons for all of us in the Old Testament. Have we turned a deaf ear to these teachers and messages from God? People are not seeking salvation. The Word teaches that the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. That time is here. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

ALL THINGS CAN BE NEW

New items which we use soon become worn and must take their place beside the old and ordinary things. The beauty of their newness is gone. The beauty of a fresh snowfall is soon marred when a little soot falls on it. The beauty of new green plant growth soon is overtaken by the shedding of leaves and so forth. The beauty of youth fades as the years pass. Very few things become better with age. They are usually at their best when new.

When the old year passes, the new year comes to us with nothing to mar its beauty. How long will it stay that way? It depends on us and what we do. We make resolutions and decide that we will make this a better year, but the effect soon wears off and we slip back into our old rut. No resolution can really change us and make a new way of life possible. Can we ever have a new year which stays that way, clean and pure? In Christ, we can. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17.

During the month of December, many people think of Christ in one way or another. Then by the time the new year begins, they've forgotten about Him and what He came to this earth for. They don't seem to realize that He came to give us a new heart, so that a whole new way of life is possible. He doesn't intend for us to just make resolutions and just hope things will turn out better. When we have a new heart, everything IS better!

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the

new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:23-24. God will create newness within us if we want Him to; when He does, it will be right and holy. When you are right with the Lord, then you can be right with man. Every year you live for Him will be a better year than the last. Why? Because you are growing spiritually and becoming a mature Christian. The Christian way is the only way which does get better with age!

David asked God to create a clean heart within him. (Psalms 51:10). He knew that if his heart wasn't right, nothing else would be, either. A new heart is not just the old one made over; it's a different one. After we receive a new heart, we should be careful to keep it new. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Matt. 12:35. Only a new heart can bring forth that which is good.

A new heart has certain characteristics, and all of them will make your new year a better one. A new heart is honest and good (Luke 8:15). A new heart is free of anger, wrath (violent anger), malice (extreme ill or hatred), blasphemy (speaking evil of sacred things), filthy communication and lying. When the "old man" is put off and the "new man" is put on, you will be different because you are "renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (See Col. 3:8-10). Your new heart will make a whole new you!

The children of Israel started their new year with a feast called "The Feast of Trumpets". They celebrated with horn and trumpet blowing. There was a time set aside for reading the law, for worship, and for rejoicing together. They started their year out right, with the Lord. If you want your new year to be a good one, start it out right with the Lord. Let His will be the basis for all your resolutions and plans throughout the year. "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." James 4:15. All things can be new and will stay that way if you let God have His way with you, all year long!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554



Do not try to defeat the devil by your own strength, you are handling a high tension wire.

LESSONS AT THE WOODPILE

"Whe-e-w," whistled Phil as he helped himself to a seat on a block of wood to rest a bit. He had just finished splitting a twin-centered piece of elm with a couple wedges and a heavy, single-bit ax. Elm nearly always split hard and in most cases required wedges to split it.

Phil studied the objects of his labor. "Now I could've hit the end of that chunk a hundred times with the keen edge of my ax and never started a crack," he mused. "But by inserting a wedge and retaining the force of every stroke in the wedge, I soon had it split wide open."

"Now isn't that an exact parallel with the way Satan uses wedges between people," he thought further. "As long as grievances, misunderstandings, trespasses, and so forth, between brethren are forgiven and forgotten according to Luke 17:3 and 4, they are like ax strokes on a piece of elm - they don't begin to even crack their bond of love. But if these same "ax strokes" are retained in a wedge of memory and unforgiveness, brethren are soon driven apart."

Let us, by God's help, keep out these wedges! Brethren and Sisters alike, let us ask the Lord as the apostles did in Luke 17:5, "...Lord, Increase our faith."

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." Luke 17:3-4.

Let us each day have this poem on our hearts and always be ready to forgive and forget.

"AN EVENING PRAYER"

If I have wounded any souls today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord forgive.

If I have been perverse or hard or cold,
If I have longed for shelter in the fold,
When thou has given me some foot to hold,
Dear Lord forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to thee,
Forgive the secret sins I do not see, •
O guide me, bless me, and my keeper be,
Oh Amen.

Sister Shirley Frick
1577 St. Rt. 121
New Madison, Ohio 45346

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ISRAEL CROSSES JORDAN INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Joshua 3 and 4

The great day had arrived! After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel was ready to enter the promised land. It was in the spring of the year and the River Jordan was at flood stage. Snow in the mountains of Lebanon had melted at the coming of the warm season and the water had overflowed the banks of Jordan. How were so many people going to get across so much water? God was going to perform another miracle for Israel. And the Lord said to Joshua, "This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee."

Joshua gathered the children of Israel together and told them that they were about to witness proof that God was with them and that when they entered the Promised Land He would drive out the people that lived in the land from before them. God told Joshua that the priests should carry the ark down to the Jordan River and the people were to stay back from the ark about two thousand cubits, which is a little over a half mile. The ark was a big box or chest made of wood and covered with gold inside and out. It held the tables of stone that the Ten Commandments were written on.

When the priests who were carrying the ark came to the River Jordan, they started to walk into the water; what do you think happened? The water of the river suddenly stopped and stood up as an heap - just as if there were a dam built across the river - only you couldn't see it. The river on the down stream side of the river drained away and the priests went to the middle of the river and stood there on dry ground till all the people of Israel had passed over Jordan. Then the Lord commanded that twelve men, one from each tribe, would take a stone from the riverbed where the priests stood. The stones were taken to the first camp, that Israel made in Canaan, for a memorial or a remembrance of what God had done in causing the waters of Jordan to back up till all Israel had crossed in safety. This camp was called "Gilgal" and became a city of Israel. When the priests bearing the ark came up out of the Jordan the water that had backed up started flowing again as it had before.

Would you like to have been there to see the water of Jordan back up? I'm sure I would. God can do anything. His power is unlimited. God wants us to trust Him, then He will take care of us. There is nothing too hard for the Lord.

Brother Rudy Cover

GOD USES THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN

We love the account in the fourteenth chapter of Mark concerning the woman who brought an alabaster box of precious ointment to the Master. It contained pure spikenard, a very costly perfume. Not only was the container valuable and beautiful to behold, but its contents were even more precious. But that beautiful, outer shell had to be broken in order to let the contents come forth. Before the box was broken open, there was not so much as a faint smell of the ointment present. In like manner our outer man must be broken to let the Spirit flow forth.

In plain churches, a lot of emphasis is put on the outward appearance, but many times very little is said about man's communion with God in the inward man. Our flesh must be of a broken and contrite nature before we can even feel the blessings of God. In order to have any communion with the Lord, everything must be taken out of the way.

In the days of our Lord, containers like the one made of alabaster could only be used once, being rendered useless in its opening. We must get to such a point that our outer man, (that part of us, with wants and desires that have to be satisfied) is rendered useless under the power of God.

God always uses broken things. Gideon's waterpots had to be broken. The bread that fed five thousand had to be broken. Let the Scripture speak to your heart, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isa. 57:15.

Brother Lynn Miller

THANK YOU, GOD

A sermon by Bro. Paul Byfield

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:" Psalms 50:14. Verse 23, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." Thankfulness is placed with the highest of Christian virtues. In the home, parents should teach their children to say, "Thank You" to God. They should be taught that everything comes from God. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18. God even demands thanks from those who serve Him. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father, by him." Col. 3:17.

We should give thanks for salvation. Paul says, "I thank my God

always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." I Cor. 1:4. The greatest gift ever given to man is salvation. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. For this we are all most thankful. We must give thanks in all things. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20.

We teach our children to be polite and to say, "Thank You", to teachers, friends and clerks in stores when they do something kind or show a favor. How much more we should teach them to say, "Thank You, God", by our examples as well. If they hear us say, "Thank You, God", not only for the big things, but for the little, everyday blessings that are provided for us, which we almost take for granted, they will follow our example and say, "Thank You, God." All good things are provided for us by God. We read in Deut. 8:7-10, "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive and honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land that he hath given thee."

The tendency is to be like the rich man. "I will tear down my barns and build greater." See what gain I have gotten: not giving God the thanks and honor due Him. He could have filled his barns and given the surplus to the poor. All people should give thanks. I Tim. 2:1, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men." No man is exempt from the blessings of God so every man should return thanks back to God. Thanksgiving will help us to get answers to our prayers. "... In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Phil. 4:6.

Jesus taught his Apostles to pray, "Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed by thy name." We should always praise and thank God first for the blessings he has already given us, before we ask Him for more.

Our spiritual growth comes through thanksgiving. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." II Cor. 4:15. If we desire to grow in Grace we must do so in the spirit of thanksgiving. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Pet. 3:18. "And he (Jesus) commanded

the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people." Mark 8:6. Even Jesus set us the example of giving thanks for our daily food.

To God be the Glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us his Son.
Who yielded his Life an atonement for sin,
And opened the Life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His Voice.
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice.
O, come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the Glory, Great things he hath done.

Some people, after asking God's help, fail to thank Him when He gives the answer. Luke 17:12-16, "And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan."

Our son, Donald Kline, wrote the following poem about this incident in the Bible, several years ago.

WERE WE THANKFUL

Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?
These were the words of your Saviour and mine,
Who lovingly, graciously, sent forth His Power,
To recover ten men, in their lonely, sad hour.
His Power had reached their need to meet,
But only one came and fell at His feet.
And then heard the words, which healed his soul,
Go now, in peace, your faith made you whole.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave.
Waterford, California 95386



Don't tear down your neighbor's hovel unless you invite him into your mansion.

LOOK UP FOR SALVATION

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, how often do we raise our heads and eyes to look up and glorify our Lord and Saviour? If we do not look up and keep our eyes on the Lord, where are we going to be in the judgement day?

If we are always looking down, we will never be able to see the Lord. In the 18th chapter of Luke, it tells of the blind man, who, hearing the multitude passing by, asked, "What is the meaning of the crowd", and when he heard it was the Lord, he cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." The good Lord healed his eyes and he did see. After he received his sight, he did glorify God. Have we received our sight? Are we glorifying our Saviour?

While we were out in the world of sin and were spiritually blind, we did not see our Saviour, but after having received sight, did we Glorify our Lord? When we were able to look up and see our Saviour, did we look up and rejoice, did we praise our Saviour as we should, or did we act as if God owed us spiritual sight? If we think this way, have we really become a Christian? Has our Saviour accepted us into His body? Without looking to see if we are accepted, will we ever know before judgement day?

If we keep our eyes on the ground, we will never see all the beautiful things our God has made for us to enjoy. Not only will we not see the beautiful things that God has made, but we will not be able to see the opportunity to serve God.

Psalms 121:1-2 says, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help COMETH from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." If ever we are going to look up, now is the time, for today is the day of salvation. Isn't it comforting to know that we can lift our eyes to the hills and that our Saviour will be there? To aid us in our every-day-existence so we might live with Him for ceaseless ages of eternity.

Why is it so difficult for us to lift our eyes to Heaven? If we keep our eyes upon the Lord, He will lead us around pitfalls and stumbling blocks. We don't have to drop our eyes to the ground, where we can see what Satan has for his people.

"The Lord looketh from heaven, he beholdeth all the sons of men." "Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him." It seems that the prophets of old and the Psalmist David knew where to keep their eyes, to keep the Lord in sight. They knew they had to lift their eyes for salvation.

It is my prayer that all who walk in the light of the Lord, lean upon the arm that never fails, and LOOK UP, for there is salvation for those who keep their eyes upon the Lord.

So remember, dear ones in Christ, lift your eyes unto the hills from whence cometh YOUR help, and if you start to stumble, there is an arm which never fails, to lean on.

In Christian Love,
Brother Orvis Smith

OBITUARY

WILFRED HOBLIT

Bro. Wilfred C. Hoblit, son of the late Boston and Sarah (John) Hoblit was born July 17, 1876, in Adams County, Indiana. He passed away at the Greenville Brethren Home, at Greenville, Ohio, on October 28, 1976, being a hundred years and a hundred and three days old.

While young in life he became a member of the Baptist Church, later as he was not satisfied with his membership there, and becoming interested in the Dunkard Brethren, he joined the Dunkard Brethren Church, being a faithful member through out the remainder of his life. For some time he had been a member of the Eldorado Church. After the disorganization of the Eldorado Church, he was received into the Englewood Church. A remarkable thing was that his mind seemed to be so keen, even up to possibly the last few days, and he was always interested in the Church being obedient to the Scriptures.

He was a retired farmer. His wife Flora died in 1950. He has been in the Brethren Home at Greenville, Ohio for a number of years.

Survivors include three sons, Harold of New Lebanon, Ohio; Orville of Pittsburg, Ohio; and Earnest of Modesto, California; one daughter, Esther Boyd, of Lewisburg, Ohio; eighteen grandchildren; forty two great-grandchildren; fifteen great-great-grandchildren; besides other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted, Monday, November 1, 1976, from the Kreitzer Funeral Home, Arcanum, Ohio, at 2:00 P.M. with burial in the Abbottsville Cemetery. Services conducted by Elder Melvin Roesch assisted by Elder George Replogle.



You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's Word.



We are saved by God's mercy, not by our merits; by Christ's dying, not by our doing.

NEWS ITEMS

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Over the week-end of October 30-31 we had company. A car load from Modesto, California and a car load from the Torreon Mission. They stayed from Saturday till Monday. We had a very good meeting, hope they can come again. We will be glad for any one to come and be with us, we are few and need your prayers. Our Lovefeast is set for February 19th, the Lord willing.

Sister Emma Freed, Cor.

NOTICE

I wish to thank the dear Brethren and Sisters and friends for their prayers, visits and comforting letters and cards during my recent illness. And also for the inspiration and encouragement your many letters and cards brought to me, in remembrance of my eighty-eighth birthday. I cannot express in words the joy and comfort I received from them. It was a blessing from God, I know. And may He greatly bless each one of you, for your ministry of comfort and love, and keep you in His loving care and guidance. With Christian love and prayers.

Sister Ada Whitman

NOTICE

At the beginning of this new year, we would like to express our thanks to those who have had a part in the success of the Bible Monitor this past year. We appreciate the efforts of those who have sent in original and selected articles and poems. The correspondents and agents who have sent news items and subscriptions are greatly appreciated. Especially important to the Bible Monitor has been those who have sent in their subscriptions and donations. Without all these varied efforts there would be no Bible Monitor. As we enter a new year we look to you again. We look forward to your support, financial and written and especially we covet your prayers. We wish you a Happy New Year and the best of God's Blessings.

The Editor



A family altar would alter many a family.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

JANUARY 15, 1977

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HELP ME TO HELP MY NEIGHBOR

Help me to help my neighbor;
Help me to understand;
Help me to hear the pleading
Of an outstretched, empty hand;
Help me to do to others
As I'd have them do to me;
Help me to help my neighbor
Whatever his faith may be;
Help me to see a heavy heart
Behind a smiling face;
Help me to judge as I'd be judged
If I were in his place;
The night is dark
And the way is long
On a road that has no end;
Help me to help my neighbor;
Help me to be his friend.

— Anonymous

SECURITY

In recent years one of the fastest growing businesses in this country has been that of providing security. No longer do we live in a land of the extended latchstring and unlocked doors. Locksmiths are kept busy selling and installing new locks of every type along with other devices designed to protect the buyer's property. At many shopping centers and around industrial plants, security guards and even watchdogs are employed to keep the dishonest at bay. Everyone has such a fear that his property will be molested or stolen that he will go to great lengths to protect it.

The lack of material security, which necessitates all of these security devices, shows a similar lack of Spiritual security. Today our land has become a country of the unchurched and the unChristian. Because of this Spiritual insecurity, people try to make, at least, their material possessions secure. Since they do not know or worship the God of Heaven, their material possessions become their gods, which they worship and protect.

Not knowing God means they also do not have His love in their hearts. Lacking the love of God in their hearts they have only fear. They not only fear the loss of their property but their lack of love brings evil thoughts of others. Their fear causes them to think that others are untrustworthy and to accuse them readily of misdeeds. This sad condition is far from that pictured by the Apostle John. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment." I John 4:18a. The large industry that has grown up to provide material security shows the torment, the lack of love

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

has brought into many lives.

The best security devices available in this world can fail. The fears of the worldly often are heightened by a new fear over the safety of their security devices. Their security proves to be elusive and failing, because their hearts do not have room for God. His love is perfect so it is capable of driving out the fears that torment so many. Even many Christians fail to depend upon His love, so fears continue to nag them much the same as the world's. Their love for Him is defective, imperfect, hence they fail to have the peace they should possess. The Christian who has the love of God in his heart - not only God's love for him but his own love for God - has a peace of mind even in the midst of great troubles that is beyond the knowledge of the fearful, tormented world. In that peace the Christian has a security that is safer than the best locks ever made.

Just as so many are troubled about the security of their temporal possessions, many are also troubled about their Spiritual security. Men lock up their valuables as best they can and hope that none will be able to get them. Some try to "lock up" their Spiritual valuables. Their hope is often as slim as that of the one who depends on just locks for his security. They base their security on a one-time decision to believe in God, not on a continual love-service to Him.

Satan persuades men to collect all they can for the here and now. He also leads people to the same desire, spiritually. They do not want to depend on faith and hope to lead them through this life to their eternal reward but they want it guaranteed to them no matter what their life might be. A real faith is one that meets the trials and decisions, that come to each during life, and comes out on the side of godliness and righteousness. It is not a faith that is built upon a supposed guarantee of life eternal despite unfaithful choices made during trials. Abraham is known as the Father of the Faithful because he made the right choices when under trial. His faith saw him through; the same kind of faith is needed today so we can have the same reward he received. Our best security is not in the ideas of men but in the continuing service of God, like those of old who have set good examples for us to follow.

The security precautions used by the world are elaborate and expensive. This great investment is made to protect the toys and trinkets of this world. If we are as interested in the security of our soul as we are of our temporal goods, then we should heed God's Word. It is in His Word that we find the needed activities, commandments and ordinances, so we can have the security we want for our soul if we will but do them from the heart.

Where is your security? At the locksmith's shop or in the Word of God?

BLESSED BOOK

Blessed Book, precious book,
On thy dear old tear-stained leaves I love to look.
Thou art sweeter day by day,
As I walk the narrow way,
That leads at last to that bright home above.

I want to relate a story I heard - -

When the Sunday School teacher asked for prayer requests, Billy raised his hand, "I have an unspoken request." During Prayer-time, the teacher prayed for Billy and his unspoken request. When Sunday School was over Billy waited till the others had gone. "I don't mind you knowing, teacher, but I was ashamed to tell it out in front of all the class. My Dad is real sick."

"I know, Billy, we'll ask God to heal him."

"But that's not all," Billy sighed. "Dad's not a Christian and neither is Mother. Dad's always earned his own way and now he can't, and we just don't know what to do."

"Can't you pay the rent, Billy?"

"We don't have to pay rent. Grandpa lived with us till he died. Now, he's gone, but he left us the house. He was a Christian. He always bowed his head and prayed at meal-times, even if we didn't. He left us his Bible and his watch, too, but that's all he had."

"Well, Billy, we will pray about it."

Billy went home. His Dad was not any better and grouchy besides. When Billy told him they had prayed for him at Sunday School, he was very angry and demanded to know why Billy had discussed their problems with his teacher.

"But Dad, my teacher says, the Bible has all the answers for all our problems."

"Billy, besides looking like your Grandfather, you get more like him everyday. He was always trying to get me to read the Bible, too."

"Why couldn't we just see what Grandpa's Bible says, anyway, Dad?"

Billy's Dad's expression changed, "Oh well, go get it, Billy. I'm sorry I'm such a grouch, but the doctor told me this morning that I have to go to the hospital. He said to call the health agency for help. I just won't do it, Billy."

Billy was gone a long time. When he came back he was wiping the dust off the old Bible. "Here it is, Dad. It was in the attic." Billy's Dad took the Book.

Let's see, where do we begin? Genesis or Matthew? No, I remember now, my father used to tell me to read the Book of John first and then study the rest. Where is it? Here's Luke. Say, Luke's a

long book. Here's John. What's this?"

An envelope fell to the floor. Billy picked it up and gave it to his Dad. "It's addressed to you from Grandpa."

Billy's Dad pulled the single sheet out of the envelope.

"Dear Son - I'm sure you will think this strange, but I know that someday you will be driven to the pages of this Book. I have been praying for you."

"Look Dad! A thousand dollar bill and here's another and another!" They counted it. There were ten one-thousand dollar bills in the envelope.

"Why Billy, I can't believe it! You read the rest of this." And Billy's Dad started to cry.

"If it's sickness or poverty, Son, that sends you to the Book, know this, as David of old said, 'I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.' Psalms 37:25. Do read this Book, Son. It has all the answers for now and eternity, too.

Love and God bless you, Your Dad."

The author of these Tributes to the Bible is unknown but I think they are worth repeating with this story.

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, the Christian's character.

Here Paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a Paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

The Bible will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from the Bible. The Psalmist says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11. I do not say that you will find ten thousand dollars in your Bible, but you will find far greater treasures that moth and rust will not corrupt nor thieves break

through and steal.

What is the worth of your soul? "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26.

Are you reading your Bible?

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 El Pomar Ave.
Waterfor, California 95386

CHILDREN'S PAGE

"AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN"

JOSHUA 6

The children of Israel were in the promised land! At last, they had food to eat of the land; they didn't eat manna anymore. But there were enemies in the land and the city of Jericho was near where the children of Israel camped. According to people who have explored the ruins of old Jericho, its walls were thirty feet high with an outer wall six feet wide and an inner wall twelve feet wide and separated by a space of fifteen feet. Houses were built on the top of these walls, which connected the two walls and held them together. In just such a house did Rahab live. She was the one who hid the spies that Joshua had sent. She helped them escape at night by letting them down the wall by a rope through a window in her house.

How were the children of Israel going to get into a city with walls like that? They only had swords and spears and bows and arrows. They didn't know what cannon and bombs and explosives, as we have today, were like. No doubt, the walls were patrolled by soldiers of Jericho who could shoot arrows at anyone who came within shooting distance.

But God had a plan. The soldiers of Israel were to start out, priests bearing the ark were to follow and after the priests, more people followed. They went around the city of Jericho while the priests were blowing their trumpets. The people were not to shout or make any noise until Joshua told them to. Six days they walked around Jericho only once while the priests blew their trumpets. I wonder what the inhabitants of Jericho thought. "What kind of a battle is this, anyway? They don't come close enough that we can even get a shot at them!"

On the seventh day, they circled Jericho six times and still nothing happened. But after they had gone around the city the

seventh time Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord hath given you the city."

And the people shouted and the priests blew the trumpets and all of a sudden something unexpected happened. Those great walls of Jericho fell flat with the houses, soldiers and all in a heap. And every man of Israel went straight before him and they took the city.

But there was one part of the wall that didn't fall. Do you know where that was? It was the part that Rahab's house was built on. Joshua told the two spies whom he had sent to Jericho, "Go and bring out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all that she has." So they brought all of Rahab's family out and left them without the camp of Israel. Rahab later married a man of Israel named Salmon. He may have been the son of Caleb. Rahab's faith in the God of Israel saved Rahab and her family and they became Israelites.

It pays to always trust God. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Brother Rudy Cover

DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY?

Did you ever wonder why the children of Israel made a molten calf to worship, rather than some other object? The god Apis, the bull, was worshipped in Egypt with a lot of pomp and splendor. There was even a temple where sacred bulls were buried. When Moses was on Mt. Sinai longer than they thought he should be, they forgot God in a hurry and asked Aaron to make them gods. After seeing the bull worship so long, Aaron made a golden calf for the people to worship.

Whatever we see, whatever is held up before us makes a deep impression. That is why we must always hold up Christ and Him crucified before others, both in our talk and in our lives. People will glorify God when they see Christ in us. If we hold up or stress anything else, that is what people will be influenced by and they will not glorify God. The idol worship held up before Israel caused them to depart from God. Only Christ can bring us close to God.

Did you ever wonder why God permits Satan to be so free about tempting us and distracting us from doing God's will? We must make a choice and we must be proven. If there were no trials, the decision would be too easy. When we are serving God, one proof of

it is when Satan gives us a rough time. He doesn't wage war on sinners, for he already has them bound. The struggle comes when we want to be free in Jesus, but we can overcome Satan with Jesus helping us. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4.

Did you ever wonder why the saints have so many heartaches, while the wicked go merrily on their way? Satan delights in troubling the saints because he hopes to turn them from God. He tried this on Job, but it didn't work. Job said, "When thou hast tried, me, I shall come forth as gold." He knew that the outcome would be worth the trouble. The wicked have their rewards here and their end is eternal death. It may look like they have an easy life, but when God says it's enough, they will be destroyed. "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1.

Did you ever wonder why we don't do what God wants us to do, without going through some hard knock? In order to learn to rely on God, we must have a deep need. Many times we make our own need by doing something foolish and God just lets us go until the trouble causes us to turn to Him. When everything goes wrong and we have nothing to hold on to but God, then we can realize the importance of asking God first, then acting later.

Did you ever wonder why we so soon forgot what we look like before God? We want to live as we please and still be accepted, but we need to learn that God sees the sin in our hearts regardless of how good we think we are. James 1:23-24 says the one who just hears the word and doesn't do it is like the one who looks briefly in a mirror, then forgets what he looked like. We must act on God's Word, not just hear it, in order for His Word to help us. By looking often into His Word, the mirror for our souls, we won't forget what we are.

Did you ever wonder why we spend so much time and money to preserve our natural health, then try to keep alive spiritually on a starvation diet? We know we must feed and care for our bodies carefully if we want to be healthy. Our souls must be fed also and our spiritual health will reflect what we feed our minds on. We can't be physically healthy by feeding on garbage; neither can we be spiritually healthy by feeding our minds on the garbage Satan has around. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psa. 119:11. Only God's Word can properly feed our souls.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus died for us, when we are so unworthy? We know He loves us, but how could He love us that much? God is love, and His ability to love is not limited in any way.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. God does not want to punish us as we deserve, but He wants instead to save us. His love has made salvation possible; now, in order to receive it, you must admit you need it, and you must accept it.

Jesus said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." John 15:9. No one can truly understand His love, but we can see what it does for us. Because of this love, we can be made alive in Christ and become the children of God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. Only love could make this possible. Don't wonder why He loves us; don't wonder why Jesus sacrificed His life for us. Just accept it - now!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

FISHERS OF MEN

Do we as a Christian people go fishing? What do we fish for? Is it only fish that we are after or are we after the "big ones" - men?

When Christ called the first four apostles, He told them He would make them fishers of men. Do we as a Christian people ever stop to think what it means, to be fishers of men? Anybody can be a fisherman and catch fish. But it takes a special kind to be a fisher of men. Do we think that we cannot be fishers of men, because we don't happen to be a preacher or a minister? When we answer the Lord's call to follow Him, we become fishers of men.

When we go fishing for fish, someone is always asking, "What kind of bait are you using?" It seems that one has to have this thing called bait or he won't catch any fish. What kind of "bait", as Christians, are we using? If we are going to draw men away from the crowd of Satan, we will need the best "bait" we can get. This, dear Brothers and Sisters, is the "bait" we will have to use to draw the sinner within reach. We will need something that has appeal to the sight, such as the pictures we can bring to mind of life everlasting, the Golden City, the crown, the peace with God. We find all this in the Holy Scriptures. As Christians, we should be able to make this very enticing to someone who is drowning in sin. We should be able to present it in a fashion that will cause the sinner to want to be saved, instead of sinking to his death in sin.

As we go from day to day, we find there are many different things we can use as "bait", to interest the sinner in our Saviour. We have to

bait our hooks with a bright and shining love, having the aroma of pardon so strong and sweet smelling, that it just cannot be resisted. If we cannot bring forth better "bait" than old Satan, then we had better get down on our knees and ask our Saviour for His help in choosing our "bait".

When we are going about our lives day by day, is it saying to the sinner, that we are the Lord's or that we will take them with us as we go on serving Him? Yes, dear Christian Friend, we need not be preachers to be fishers of men. We can let our lives be the "bait" that we cast out on the water of life, to entice the sinner away from old Satan. With the love of Jesus as our bright and shining "lure", we can be sure we will catch men, for our Saviour.

If we are faithful and sincere in the "bait" we put before the world, day after day, we know that the harvest of men for our Saviour will be great. Just because we do not know that it is our "bait" that has turned some soul to the Lord, we do not want to give up and not put the "bait" where it can be seen and taken.

ARE YOU A FISHER OF MEN? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

May God bless all and keep you fishing for men.

In Christian love,
Brother Orvis Smith

WAKE UP, JESUS IS COMING

A religious organization has placed on a lattice frame these words, "Wake up, Jesus is Coming." To anyone going north on the Pacific Highway between Dunsmuir and Mt. Shasta City, California, these words are in plain view. I am wondering, as hundreds go by each day and more thousands each week and glance at this beautiful sign, what impression it has upon their lives.

I was impressed with the thought that as winter is drawing nigh and the rainy season is approaching our lives are in danger. Many are hurled into eternity without one minute's warning. It is high time for us to stop a moment and check up to see if Jesus were to come today, would He find us prepared to meet Him and dwell with Him on High?

We must wake up, dear readers, and realize that Jesus is coming soon. We don't know if any of us will have one more chance to accept Christ and live the life He has planned for us. Oh, how sad it would be if He were to call us and we had not made the necessary preparation. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the

Son of man cometh."

We read in the fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel these words, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Oh, what a glorious promise; isn't it worth working for?

Every soul that comes into this world is going on a journey, whether we realize it or not. In Matt. 7:13-14 we read that there are two ways, one is by the strait gate and the narrow way, which leadeth unto life eternal, the other a wide gate and a broad way, which leadeth to destruction. I am sure, dear ones, none of us want to take the road that leads to destruction, but all want to take the road that leads Home. But the Book says only a remnant will be saved. In Noah's time, we read that when God destroyed the earth by water there were only eight souls saved. The Blessed Book says there will only be a few who will take the narrow way, but many will travel on the broad way. A Heavenly Home as a place of rest for the weary soul is a comforting thought for those who toil here below, when their trials here are ended.

On, how often the Father's heart is grieved, when people who claim to be His followers, will allow the spirit of gossip, and jealousy in their lives. Even Ministers and Deacons, the ones who are the leaders of His beloved Church, the ones that should be a light for others to follow, have given way to this evil. Oh, Brothers and Sisters, I pray you to wake up and see what road you are traveling, before it is too late. Oh, how serious it is to fall by the wayside and say ugly things about a child of God, because you are jealous of him or her. "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Psalms 34:13. "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer." Psalms 101:5. David tells us in Psalms 15, "...who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour."

David again tells us in Psalms 37, "The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him." and "The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment." Here readers, one can surely see the difference the Psalmist David makes between the righteous and the wicked. So I plead with you to be more careful. David also says, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off." In this whole chapter we read that many good

things come to the righteous people, never have the righteous been forsaken.

So many times when someone says something that is meant to mar the happiness of a true Christian they don't realize that they are only hurting themselves for Jesus says, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Matt. 5:11-12.

A true Christian is one who tries to help one who has fallen on this journey, so he can see the mistake he has made and get back to God before His Spirit quits striving. For we read that God's spirit will not always strive with man.

I am made to wonder how little any of us know of the inward spirit of the individual we are talking about. Their hearts may be far better than ours. Let us, each one search our own hearts to see if it is in tune with God. We won't have time to go about finding others' faults, if indeed they have any. If we are following the pattern Jesus laid, we will pray for our enemies and let our light so shine that those who come in contact with us will be drawn closer to Christ. So many times we drive people away from Christ by spreading untrue reports. We read that kind words turn away wrath, but harsh or grievous words stir up anger. If each one of us spent more time in our homes on our knees in communion with God we would be more careful about what falls from our lips. Matthew tells us that we are not to judge; also John tells us in Revelation that when we have answered our purpose here on earth Christ will judge us.

Jesus tells us that if we ask, we will receive. So, dear Christians, let us seek the Lord's guidance to help us overcome our weak points in life, then our light will shine in the darkest places and others will know we are an "epistle ... known and read of all men."

Dear ones, it would be a terrible thing to miss Heaven. Remembering the Blessed Book teaches that one soul is worth more than all the world. Not a one of us wants to miss this beautiful home Jesus has gone to prepare. Dear readers, we are the world's Bible and by our fruits we are known. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." We'll all want to do His will so He will not say to us like He said to the five foolish virgins, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not." Matt. 25:12.

David tells us not to grieve because of evil doers neither envy those that work unrighteousness for the end is at hand and they shall be no more. Our prayers availeth much if we are true followers

of the Most High. Jesus gave us a wonderful example while He hung on the cruel cross; He prayed for His enemies: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Remembering every time we endure these temptations we are stronger for the next one. For Jesus has promised if we seek, we shall find and he that cometh to the Father He will never turn away. "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

Sister E. M. Alltus

EVERY MAN PRESSETH INTO IT

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16.

The watchword of the BIBLE MONITOR is, "Go into all the world and preach and gospel." There is no finer phrase in the Scriptures to use as a guide for our lives. But there is one thing we have to remember: eighty-three souls pass into eternity each minute. We must make sure there is none of their blood on our hands. We must warn a hell-bound world of the destruction of their soul in hell, without Christ. How many have you warned lately? Is their blood on your hands? Will God Almighty hold you to account for the souls of one or more members of humanity? Consider these things. Judgment is surely coming. That trump shall soon sound. Every man, the Scripture reminds us, is pressing into the Kingdom of God to be judged. Will He point His finger at you?

Brother Lynn Miller

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

We have enjoyed a ten-day revival meeting with Elder Jacob Ness as our evangelist. He gave us interesting gospel messages. We have been encouraged to press on the upward way. We trust that the seed sown will bring forth a bountiful harvest.

We are thankful for the visitors who came from Iowa, Missouri, Colorado and Ohio for our Love Feast. We are especially grateful for the ministering brethren, who helped with the services. May the Lord richly bless each one. May we all be found faithful until Jesus comes.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

PROBLEMS AT CHURCH

If you should find the perfect church,
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake! don't join that church,
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church,
Where all anxieties cease
Then pass it by lest joining it
You mar the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church,
Then don't you ever dare,
To tread upon such holy ground,
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists
Made of imperfect men,
Then let's cease looking for that church
And love the church we're in.

Of course it's not a perfect church,
That's simple to discern
But you and I and all of us,
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee our host
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds His Church.

So let's keep working in our church
Until the resurrection,
And then we each will join that church,
Without an imperfection.

Selected by Sister Susanna B. Johns



Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.



Love does not keep a ledger of the sins and failures of others.

MARRIAGES

WEAVER-MOHN

Sis. Rowena Weaver, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Albert Weaver, Bernville, Pennsylvania and Mr. Tim Mohn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Mohn, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage October 23, 1976 at Wyomissing United Church of Christ, Gouglersville, Pennsylvania, Rev. James Killian officiating. The couple will make their home at R. 6, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.

NOECKER-AUNGST

Sis. Neide Noecker, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, Auburn, Pennsylvania, and Bro. David Aungst, son of Mr. Dory and Sis. Mae Aungst, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage November 20, 1976 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania. Elder David Ebling performed the ceremony after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis. The couple will reside at 27 Parkway, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 6 - Paul Glories in the Cross of Christ. Gal. 6:1-18.

Feb. 13 - Adoption and Inheritance. Eph. 1:1-33

Feb. 20 - Made Alive in Christ. Eph. 2:1-22.

Feb. 27 - The Unsearchable Riches of Christ. Eph. 3:1-21.

QUESTIONS:

(1) What do we reap if we sow to the flesh? to the Spirit? Gal. 6:8.

(2) What is the mystery of the will of God mentioned in Eph. 1:9? Col. 1:26,27.

(3) By what means are we made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:5) when we are dead in sins? - Rom. 6:4.

(4) Explain how in Eph. 2:9 we are saved by grace and not of works; when in Eph. 2:10 Paul says we are "... created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should WALK IN THEM.

(5) What does Paul say, he was to preach among the Gentiles? - Eph. 3:9.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1977

Condemnation and Conscience

Memory Verse James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Tues. 1 - Heb. 11:1-26

Wed. 2 - James 3:1-18

Thurs. 3 - James 5:1-20

Fri. 4 - 2 Pet. 2:1-22

Sat. 5 - 1 John 3:1-24

Memory Verse 1 John. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

Sun. 6 - Jude 1-25

Mon. 7 - John 8:1-30

Tues. 8 - Acts 23:1-30

Wed. 9 - Acts 24:1-27

Thurs. 10 - Rom. 2:1-29

Fri. 11 - Rom. 9:1-33

Sat. 12 - Rom. 13:1-14

Memory Verse Acts 24:16. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.

Sun. 13 - 1 Cor. 18:1-13

Mon. - 14 - 1 Cor. 10:1-33

Tues. 15 - 2 Cor. 1:1-24

Wed. 16 - 2 Cor. 4:1-18

Thurs. 17 - 2 Cor. 5:1-21

Fri. 18 - 1 Tim. 1:1-20

Sat. 19 - 1 Tim. 3:1-16

Memory Verse 2 Cor. 1:12. For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conservation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Sun. 20 - 1 Tim. 4:1-16

Mon. 21 - 2 Tim. 1:1-18

Tues. 22 - Tit. 1:1-16

Wed. 23 - Heb. 9:1-28

Thurs. 24 - Heb. 10:1-31

Fri. 25 - Heb. 13:1-25

Sat. 26 - 1 Pet. 2:1-25

Memory Verse 2 Cor. 4:2. But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Sun. 27 - 1 Pet. 3:1-22

Mon. 28 - 1 Pet. 4:1-19

Memory Verses, Tit. 1:15. Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Heb. 9:14. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

FEBRUARY 1, 1977

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now!

I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I loved Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now!

I will love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath,
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now!"

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now!"

-Anonymous

DOUBTFUL THINGS

The fads, follies and fancies of the world cause the Christian to choose between what is helpful and what is harmful. The only person who does not have to make this choice is the man who allows everything, good or bad, to have a place in his life or the man who lives as a hermit, isolated from the world around him. The Christian is not of the world but he certainly is in the world. As long as Satan is loose in this world, there will be choices for the Christian to make.

God's institutions and commandments are for the good of mankind. He created man and his world and like the parents of this world He does all He can for His children's good. Therefore He has given to mankind the way of life that will please God and make a man's life a blessing.

Ever since he deluded Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan has continued to lure men away from God's established institutions and values. For every institution, doctrine or holy desire, God has established, Satan has instituted a counterfeit. Satan's counterfeit often look good and harmless but their end is destruction. The Christian has to be very alert so he will not be misled and choose the counterfeit instead of the genuine.

In the place of marriage as instituted by God, Satan has substituted divorce and remarriage or simply living together. God has instituted the Church as the Bride of His Dear Son for the salvation and instruction of souls. Satan has organized lodges, unions, associations, cults and clubs as his substitute for the Church. Satan is clever in designing his counterfeits, often using a dose of religion in his organizations to further disguise their true intent. The Christian has to be aware lest he be ensnared by Satan's

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Terms: Single subscription, \$1.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

clever counterfeits.

Even the Christian who has been careful in the most important choices of life, must still be alert lest he choose wrong in the "little" things of life. It is the "little", daily choices of life which will eventually add up to a life well or ill spent. The choices the Christian makes day by day are important though Satan would have him think they do not matter much. It would be sad for one who thought he had made the right choices in life - he believed in Christ, he belonged to Church, he attended Church regularly - to come to the end of that life and find his entrance into Heaven barred by the little things he hadn't paid much attention to. The "do-dads" of the world, which he had been warned against by the Church, would suddenly look as big as they really are.

Many of the questionable things the Christian comes up against seem harmless on first view. Yet, how many of these things, whether a hobby, clothes or activities, end up using the Christian's time or money that could be better used in the Lord's service?

The world moves continually from one fad to another. Just as Satan goes to and fro about the earth, so his followers go from one thing to another, never completely satisfied, ever looking for some new thing to entertain, educate or excite them. God has given the Christian all he needs to have a complete life. He does not need to jump from one thing to another; especially the fads and follies of this world.

Many of the doubtful things, the Christian encounters, are simply unnecessary. The world likes that which is showy and fancy. Most of the merchandise sold in the stores reflects this worldly desire. The Christian should be content to have plain and simple things without display and decoration. The decoration of the world is but temporary and for show. The Christian's life should be a reflection of the eternal and the holy. The Christian needs to be aware when buying, making or building his clothes, automobile, house or machinery that it be plain and simple in color, style and lacking the unnecessary appendages so popular in the world.

Since the Christian is his brother's keeper, he should be careful about the example he sets for his weaker brother. What, he feels will not harm himself, may cause a great deal of harm to the Spiritual life of another who blindly follows his example. To be the cause of the fall of another would be a sad thing in a Christian's life. It would be the opposite of the Apostle's command to strive to restore the fallen and to strengthen the weak.

So the doubtful things and your choice concerning them is important, not only to yourself but to others and to God. When you come up against these doubtful things, think hard and long, for far more than a few moments of pleasure may be at stake, it could be a soul - yours or another's. The best advice is contained in the old saying, "When in doubt, don't."

NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving - please report a change of address promptly to the editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

It will also be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete addresses and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

- Editor

TEN REASONS WHY I SMOKE

1. It's such a clean, refined habit.
2. It makes my breath so pleasing to everybody.
3. It sets such a good example for children to follow.
4. It proves I have self control.
5. It makes my fingers and teeth so pretty and yellow.
6. It makes me look so manly.
7. I love to spit.
8. It starts fires, kills lives and destroys millions of dollars worth of forests and property. This is fun.
9. I want to see how much poison my body can take before I die.
10. It's my way of obeying God. Who says, "Keep thyself pure. Touch not the unclean thing."

"An ungodly man diggeth up evil, and in his lips there is as a burning fire." Proverbs 16:27.

Selected from Broadfording Beacon



Some people are blind, even though they have faculty of seeing with eyes.

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NAME AND ADDRESS

David F. Ebling, Bx. 26, Bethel, Pa. 19507
 Bertha Dorsey, R. 1 Bx. 229, Salisbury, Pa. 15558
 Ray R. Reed, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
 Hilda Strayer, Rt. 8, Box 176, Harrisonb'g, Va. 22801
 Ezra Berry, Rt. 1, Union, Ohio 45322
 Floyd Swihart, 1903 W. Clinton St., Goshen, Ind. 46526
 Carl E. Reed, 4716 E. 139th St., Grandview, Mo. 64030
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 Ray S. Shank, 241B Gettysburg St., Dillsburg, Pa. 17019
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 Joshua Rice, R. 3, Frederick, Md. 21701
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 Galen B. Harlacher, 404 Columbia Dr. N.W., Newburg, Ore. 97132
 Paul R. Myers, Bx 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630
 Newton Jamison, 512 Garfield, Quinter, Kansas 67752
 Howard E. Myers, Rt. 3, York, Pa. 17402
 Mabel Harman, Rt. 1, Industry, Ill. 61440
 Howard J. Surbey, 749 W. King St., Littlest'n, Pa. 17340
 Frank Shaffer, R. 4, Greencastle, Pa. 17225
 Charles Leatherman, Rt. 1, Wauseon, Ohio 43567
 Milton Cook, Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne, Anaheim, Ca. 92801

AREA CODE EXCHANGE NO.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Do You Want Salvation?
The Lord's Supper
Which is the Right Church?
The Brethren's Card.
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil.

PUBLICATION BOARD

Bible Monitor (semi-monthly)
\$1.00 per year in advance.
Brethren Hymnal (heavy back)
\$3.50 ea. \$39.50 doz.
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One Volume
\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage each.

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as - "thot" for thought, "2" for two, "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe, recieve for receive, judgement for judgment, ore for or, & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material in general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as: Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED

COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March-Quinter, Kansas
 First Sat. April-Dallas Center, Iowa
 Second Sat. April-Goshen, Indiana
 Fourth Sat. April-Pleasant Home, Calif.
 Last Sat. April-Grandview, Missouri
 Last Sun. April-Bethel, Pa.
 First Sun. May-Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. May-Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sat. May-West Fulton, Ohio
 Third Sun. May-Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sun. May-Shrewsbury, Pa.
 Sat before First Sun. Aug.-Broadwater
 Chapel, Maryland
 Sat before Fourth Sun. Aug.-Shallow
 Falls, Maryland
 Labor Day Weekend-South Fulton, Ill.
 Last Sun. Sept.-Mountain Dale, Md.
 First Sun. Oct.-Walnut Grove, Md.
 Second Sun. Oct.-Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. Oct.-Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sun. Oct.-Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sun. Oct.-Englewood, Ohio
 Last Sun. Oct.-Bethel, Pa.
 First Sun. Nov.-Shrewsbury, Pa.
 Second Sat. Nov.-Pleasant Home, Cal.

MINISTERIAL LIST

BASHOR, W. E. (E)
 867 Lorna Drive
 Glen Ellen, California 95442
 707-996-0842

BIRD, WALTER W. (E)
 R. 1, Box 93-A
 Converse, Indiana 46919
 317-395-3655

BLOCHER, PAUL D. (E)
 R. 1
 Union, Ohio 45322
 513-836-3506

BROADWATER, CARL (M)
 R. 6
 York, Pa. 17404
 717-792-1803

BYFIELD, PAUL (M)
 R. 7, Box 29-B
 Modesto, California 95351
 209-523-8412

CARPENTER, ROBERT W. (M)
 R. 5
 Peru, Indiana 46970
 317-395-7879

CARPENTER, WM (E)
 R. 1 Box 242
 Morenci, Michigan 49256
 517-458-6535

CHUPP, ALVIN (M)
 P.O. Box 188
 Cuba, New Mexico 87013

COOK, MILTON (M)
 Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne
 Anaheim, California 92802
 714-635-4575

COVER, RUDOLPH (M)
2307 Oakdale Rd., Space 34
Modesto, California 95355

EBERLY, ALLEN B. (E)
R. 3
Ephrata, Penna. 17522
717-354-9285

EBLING, DAVID (E)
Box 26
Bethel, Pa. 19507
717-933-8192

FLORA, JOSEPH E. (E)
R. 3
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-4382

FLORY, HARLEY (E)
R. 4
Defiance, Ohio 43512
419-497-2861

GUNDERMAN, H.M. (E)
22605 C.R. 118
Goshen, Indiana 46526

HARLACHER, GALEN (E)
404 Columbia Dr., N.W.
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-538-2033

HARRIS, OTTO (E)
Box 131, Antioch Route
New Creek, W. Va. 26743

HARTZ, PAUL A. Jr. (M)
703 W. Cherry Street
Palmyra, Pa. 17078

JAMISON, DALE E. (E)
Quinter, Kansas 67752

JAMISON, HERMAN (M)
Quinter, Kansas 67752

JOHNSON, H. EDWARD (E)
R. 5 Box 76
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-335-9138

KAUFFMAN, EUGENE (M)
R. 6, Box 51
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
703-434-7824

KEGERREIS, DAVID (M)
R. 1
Bethel, Pa. 19507

KEGERREIS, JAMES (E)
R. 1, Box 92
Richland, Pa. 17087
717-933-4665

KEENEY, LAVERNE (E)
818 Millway Road
Lititz, Pa. 17543
717-626-6505

LEATHERMAN, CHARLES (E)
R. 1, Box 46
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-337-1176

LEATHERMAN, VIRGIL (M)
419 N. Queen Street
Littlestown, Pa. 17340
717-359-5753

LITFIN, GALEN (E)
1314 E. 7th St.
Newberg, Oregon 97132

MALLOW, ELDON (M)
R. 4 Box 274A
Greencastle, Pa. 17225

MYERS, HOWARD E. (E)
R. 3
York, Pa. 17402
717-755-9812

NESS, JACOB C. (E)
136 Homeland Road
York, Pa. 17403
717-741-1607

PEASE, WALTER C. (M)
Box 293
Quinter, Kansas 67752

PEFFER, JOHN (M)
R. 1
Carlisle, Pa. 17013
717-243-8328

PIFER, FRED (M)
R. 3
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-3187

REED, D. PAUL (E)
R. 3, Box 1
Riner, Virginia 24149

REED, HAYES (E)
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, California 95350
209-523-2753

REED, RAY R. (E)
Box 12
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

REED, R.Q.E. (E)
Star Route
Radford, Va. 24141

REED, W.S. (E)
Dallas Center,
Iowa 50063
515-992-3583

REPLOGLE, GEORGE E. (E)
R. 2
Arcanum, Ohio 45304
513-947-1074

RICE, JOSHUA (E)
R. 3
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-898-9741

ROESCH, MELVIN C. (E)
R. 1, Box 156
West Unity, Ohio 43570
419-924-5079

ROOT, WM. (E)
1612 Morphy Street
Great Bend, Kansas 67530
316-SW3-5284

RUSH, HARLEY (E)
R. 1
Converse, Ind. 46919
317-395-3751

SCHULTZ, CLYDE E. (E)
Box 105
Turlock, California 95380

SHAFFER, FRANK D. (E)
R. 4
Greencastle, Pa. 17225
717-597-7282

SHANK, RAY S. (E)
241 B Gettysburg St.
Dillsburg, Pa. 17019
717-432-2166

SHELLY, EMMERT O., Jr. (M)
California Rd.
R. 2, Box 395
Littlestown, Pa. 17340
717-359-4975

SHUMAKE, L.A. (M)
Rt. 5, Box 149
Louisa, Va. 23093
703-967-1993

SKILES, DANIEL C. (M)
P.O. Box 186
Eldridge, Calif. 95431
707-938-4860

SKILES, DAVID L. (M)
P.O. Box 188
Cuba, N. Mexico 87013

SKILES, ORA (E)
3623 Toomes Rd.
Modesto, Calif. 95351
209-545-0551

SMITH, WARREN C. (E)
McClave, Colo. 81057
303-829-4521

SNYDER, JACK L. (M)
R.D. 1
Stevens, Pa. 17578
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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scriptures and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or any one else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and unChristian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PA.

Frystown House, located in Frystown, in northwestern Berks County, one mile south of Route 78 and one mile west of Route 501.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon County or halfway between Schafferstown and Womelsdorf, Pa.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage River Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Route #220 north, take Maryland Route #135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Wards Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa. all improved roads. From Everett take Route 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, one and one-half miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Route 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn south off of Route 64 on to Percival Ave. (first street west of R.R. tracks); the church is located 3 blocks south on the southeast corner of Percival and Ash Streets.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg exit No. 63. Go to second stop light, Route 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Route 257 two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road one block north of county No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana No. 15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the South on Route 501, turn right at the fourth stoplight in Lititz, when coming from the North turn left at the first stoplight, which is East Lincoln St. Go to first crossroad, turn right, go to second crossroad, turn right to brick church on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, CUMBERLAND CITY, PA.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Route 114 into East and West, and by Route 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington Street four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Route 11 will lead east to Route 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Route 16 will lead west to Route 114.

MCCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway No. 50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. No. 50 and then north one mile.

MIDWAY, INDIANA

An old red brick school house on your right, as you travel southwest from Peru, just off U.S. Highway 31, three miles from the Courthouse, which is located near the center of Peru, Indiana.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md. from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses No. 15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles South of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

Coming from the north on Rt. 99, to Ceres, go through underpass, turn right to stop sign on El Camino St., turn left on Park St. to 6th St. turn right one block to Roeding Ave., turn left and go 1 1/2 miles to the Church on Roeding. Coming from the south, turn off highway on El Camino to stop sign, turn left on Park St. and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Route 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Route 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, IND.

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse, Route 513 passes north and south through Converse. From Converse south, two and one-half miles, turn right on blacktop road and go six miles west to Plevna; church is near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, ORE.

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stop light, turn right on North Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8, at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILL.

Astoria, Ill., is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, churchhouse is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Route 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Route 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md., and Hanover, Pa; One-fourth mile east of Route 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Route 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio, Route 108 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA.

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Route 30 and Piney Grove on Route 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Route 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located southwest of Cuba, New Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State High-

way 197 in Cuba. Follow Route 197 for 19 miles when you will take an unpaved road to the left. A mission sign marks this junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles and family; Alvin and Mary Ellen Chupp and family; Jim Meyers and Bridget Smith. Visitors would be wise to notify mission in advance. Address, P.O. Box 188, Cuba, New Mexico 87013. Please contact for further information.



NEWS ITEM

GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1977

June 4-8

The Lord willing, 1977 General Conference will be held at the Maranatha Bible Camp, thirteen miles east of North Platte, Nebraska, on Interstate 80.

More information will be given at a later date.

For reservations write to:

Bro. Floyd Haldeman
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

or

Bro. Carl E. Reed
4716 - 139th Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030



MARRIAGE

REED-MEYERS

Sis. Sandra Reed and Bro. Lee Meyers, were united in Holy Matrimony on December 4, 1976, by Bro. Fred Pifer. Bro. and Sis. Carl Reed, Grandview, Missouri and Bro. and Sis. Roy Meyers, Dallas Center, Iowa are their parents. The couple will make their home at Route 1, Dallas Center, Iowa.

TODAY

I will start today serenely
With a true and noble aim;
I will give unselfish service
To enrich another's name.

I will speak a word of courage
To a soul enslaved by fear;
I will dissipate drab discord
With the sunshine of good cheer.

I will be sincere and humble
In the work I have to do;
I will praise instead of censure
And see the good in you.

I will keep my mind and body
Sound and flexible and pure;
I will give my time and study
To the things that long endure.

I will do what I am able
To advance a worthy cause;
I will strive to lessen evil
And obey God's righteous laws.

I will pray to Him to guide me
In the straight and narrow way;
I will shun false pride and folly,
I will live my best today.



A tourist who visited an exquisite garden on one of the lovely estates in Italy wrote the following account of his conversation with the caretaker. "How long have you been here?" he asked. "Twenty-five years," replied the caretaker. "And how often has the owner been to see the estate?" "Four times." "When did he come last?" "Twelve years ago." "He writes to you, I suppose." "Never." "From whom do you get your orders?" "From the steward in Milan." "Does he come here often?" "Never." "Who comes, then, to look after things?" "I am left pretty much alone; very seldom do I see any strangers." "Yet you keep the garden so spic-and-span that one would think you were expecting the owner tomorrow." "Today, sir, today!"

Selected from Broadfording Beacon

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out of the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

FEBRUARY 15, 1977

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHAT WE SAY

If all that we say in a single day,
with never a word left out,
Were printed each night in clear black and white,
t'would prove queer reading no doubt.
And then just suppose,
ere our eyes we would close,
We must read the whole record through;
Then wouldn't we sigh, and wouldn't we try
a great deal less talking to do?
And I more than half think
that many a kink
Would be smothered in life's tangled thread,
If half that we say in a single day
were for ever left unsaid.

THE FAMILY ALTAR

Each member of the Church made several promises, or vows, when he became a member. These vows were made not only to men but to God as well. The instruction and warning of God's Word is plain. "Vow, and pay unto the Lord your God." Psalms 76:11a. "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." Ecc. 5:4-5.

One of the vows made by each was that the family altar would be established in the home. Yet, how many of those who have promised, are actually doing their best to fulfill their vow? Failure in this solemn duty carries with it serious consequences.

The family altar should be established in each Christian home not only for the sake of keeping a promise but because of the instructions given us by God. We are admonished to sing, pray, praise and to study the Word of God. Parents are especially admonished about the training of their children. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. The children of Israel were given quite a rigorous schedule for the training of their offspring. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.... And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house and on thy gates." Deut. 6:6-7, 9. This was the requirement for those who were under the Old

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York; Pa. 17403

Law; should not those under the Grace of Christ be willing to do as much or even more? The souls given into the care of parents are precious. The way they are taught will influence not only their lives but future generations as well.

The family altar is needed not only by the children but by the adults as well. Moses in instructing the parents to teach their children the commands of God, told the parents that "these words... shall be in thine heart." Deut. 6:6. Before the parents could train up their children they had to know that which they were to teach. The family altar is not only the time of instruction but also of refreshment of the parents' minds.

The Lord's instructions can not be fulfilled by the few hours spent in the Lord's House each week. The officials of the Church must be "apt to teach" but yet the primary responsibility for the proper Spiritual training rests upon the parents. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. What better way does a father have to nurture and admonish his children than during a special time set aside for that purpose. Since the children are under the influence of the home more than any other place, every effort should be made by the parents to see that that influence is as it should be in a Christian home. The establishment of the family altar is a way for the parents to show their own obedience to the Word of God, which will serve as a good example for their children to follow in obeying God's commands.

The way the family altar is established in each home may vary considerably. Work schedules, the ages and readiness of the children, the other activities of the home will influence the choice of a time. It matters little whether this time is in the morning, evening or night, whether it is at meal time or another time. The content will vary from home to home and even from time to time in the same home. The important thing is to set aside that time. Nothing, but the most serious of things, should be allowed to intrude upon this sacred time. It should be understood by all in the home that their presence is expected and required.

How can this special, sacred time best be used? Prayer, singing and Bible reading should all have their place. The family altar gives the opportunity for children to learn to pray. Although their childish efforts may lack adult understanding, they are nonetheless learning not only how to pray but that they should pray. The family altar is a time for learning Christian songs. Children can learn not only the short children's songs but the hymns of the Church as well. When there are so many worldly and evil songs around, it is good for them to have these songs of faith in their hearts. The stories of the Bible,

either directly from the Bible or a Bible story book, become real to the children as they are repeated. This sacred time offers a good time to memorize and to hide away Bible verses in their hearts.

It has been said that if there were more family altars more families would be altered. Certainly we live in a day when many families, even Church families, need to be altered. Now is the time to begin this sacred time in your home.

SONGS ARE MORE THAN WORDS

"It's just singing tonight at Church, so I guess I won't go." Did you ever say that? Is it really "just singing?" Is it just words set to music, made to sound pleasant to our ears? No, because songs are much more than just words and phrases that rhyme. Truly spiritual songs offer praise to God; some are actually a prayer. Others are invitations to come to Christ. Still others express the joy, we have in serving the Lord.

Songs give a lift to our souls, because when we sing, our hearts are in communication with God. Even when in a group, God hears the song in each individual heart. Whatever the song means to you is the praise or the prayer that He hears from you. You may not be able to sing, but if the words express your feelings about God, He knows this and accepts your praise.

There is an abundance of songs in the world, but only a portion of them praise God. Many of the songs are sad, telling of the sorrows and troubles of this life. The child of God has songs of joy, of peace with God, of confidence that Jesus will come again. When He comes again, to receive His own, we will have the final victory over the sorrows of His life and can then sing a new song.

The children of Israel did alot of singing. One special song was in thanksgiving for their delivery from the Egyptians at the Red Sea. This thanksgiving was shortlived however, for soon they were murmuring and complaining, first for water and later for food. (See Exodus 15 and 16). Are we ever like that: one moment praising God in our songs, and the next, we are complaining and in despair? We should trust Him at all times because we know God will take care of us. Surely a God who can make a dry path through a sea can provide food, water, or whatever is needed.

It is hard to sing when we are filled with sorrow, but because of God's care, we can sing even at night when our sorrows often trouble us the most. "Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." Psalms 42:8. A song in your

heart at night will be just between you and God; no one else will know it's there. It will be there because you know you have had His care during the day and you can rest in His care at night also. A song can flow from your heart even when troubles are present.

Sometimes a song in the night can start a revival when heard by others. Such a song is far more than just words. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." Acts 16:25. God moved in that prison after they sang. An earthquake shook it from one end to the other. He also moved in the heart of the keeper, for he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Before the night was over, he and his household believed and were baptized. We don't know what the prisoners thought, but they surely knew God was with Paul and Silas. Songs of praise offered in the middle of trial makes a deep impression on those who hear.

Children look forward to the hymn time in every service. At that time, they can join the adults in praising God because it is something they can understand. We as adults should look forward to singing the hymns also, and not view them as something to be endured at various times during a worship service. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Col. 3:16. Hymns can teach us about God, and we should take advantage of the simple truths they teach.

Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives just previous to His arrest and Crucifixion. If it wasn't important, why would He have bothered to sing when facing such an ordeal? Singing will be at least a part of the praise offered in Heaven. (See Rev. 5:9) If it wasn't important, why would it be done in Heaven? When the children of Israel went out to battle (I Chron. 20:21-22), singing was important, because the Lord gave them the victory when they began to sing and to praise. In our spiritual battles, we need to sing and praise also until the victory comes.

When you sing, your mind cannot wander. It helps to draw your mind away from the hustle and bustle of life. It refreshes you so you are ready to receive the Word. It's not "just singing" or "just words", but it is one way of giving God your praise and thanks. If your Church sets aside an evening for a song and devotional service, make it your business to be there. You'll be blessed for it.

"Is any merry? let him sing psalms." James 5:13b. Show your joy by singing - spiritual songs, that is, not just any song. Truly spiritual songs are more than just words!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

FULLNESS

In Luke 12, Jesus gives an account of a man who prospered to such a great extent that his barns could not hold the bounty. Like the rich man of that day, many today are apparently striving to acquire much of this world's goods. We can well describe this man and ourselves, if we are guilty, as a "poor rich man." We see much evidence today of the emptiness in man's hearts when only their earthly bags are full. Divorce, broken homes and ruined health are some of the signs to mention only a few.

Jesus said that we should, "... provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not..." Luke 12:33. God offers mankind this treasure, not only by a measure but with God's fullness.

Psalms 23:5 tells us of a **full cup** and a bountiful table even in the presence of enemies. Not only is the cup full, but it is running over. When we have so much of something that it is running over, we surely have enough to share with someone else. Who can say in this country, which God has so wonderfully blessed, that we do not have a full cup. So it is with God's goodness. He fills and overflows His children's lives so they might share with the poor and needy, not to build greater barns in order to hoard what God intends to be a comfort to the needy.

In Malachi 3:10, God promises to pour out a blessing that cannot be contained, even as it was with the widow's meal barrel and vessels of oil in Elijah's time. Here, the Lord says to "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith...." This shows us how God uses His people to provide meat in His house. In light of the millions who today are perishing for lack of physical and spiritual food, this verse has a most urgent appeal.

John 15:11 reminds us of a **fullness of joy**. "... that your joy might be full." Even in the midst of all of life's problems, it is still the Christian's privilege to enjoy life and to simply consider it a great joy and opportunity to serve the Lord, even to be a self-sacrifice for the Lord's sake.

Ephesians 3:19 and 5:18 says we should be filled with the "fullness of God" and "filled with the spirit." How lacking I find my own life in this respect. Naturally, in order to fill something, whether it is a vessel or a life, it must first be emptied. May we all be emptied of self, pride and unrighteousness that we might be filled with the "full-ness of God." Then in eternity we can be reaped as a ripe sheaf for the Lord of the Harvest.

Finally, in Colossians 1:9, Paul prayed that "... ye might be filled

with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Let us be careful in this age of great knowledge, that we know God's will and become spiritually wise. Knowledge wrongly applied will only bring failure. Wisdom is knowledge rightly applied.

May we, who call ourselves the "people of God", empty ourselves at the Saviour's feet. Let us empty ourselves of such selfish traits as greed, lust, strife and pride. Then let us be filled by God and with His Spirit, so all the world may know that God's people are still upon the earth. Then, in the fullness of time, we will all be gathered together to drink our full from the crystal stream flowing from the throne of God and to eat from the tree of life. There we will be completely satisfied and wanting nothing forevermore.

Brother David Skiles

GIANTS

The Lord commanded Moses, in the land of Paran, to send men to search out the land of Canaan, which He had given to Abraham and to his seed, the children of Israel, for their inheritance.

Moses chose twelve men, one man from each tribe. These were the heads of each tribe. Moses told them to get them up this way southward unto the mountain, and see what the land was like, whether it was strong or weak, few or many, and see what all was there, if it was good or bad. Also they were to see what kind of cities were there and whether the people dwelt in tents or strongholds. They were to find out all about the land for it would be their future dwelling place.

As the twelve men went their way, their first encounter was with the giants, Ahimon, Sheshai and Talmai, the sons of Anak, in Mount Hebron. Going on farther, they came to the brook of Eshcol, where they cut down a cluster of grapes. It was so large, it took two men to carry it. They also gathered pomegranates and figs.

They returned to the Camp of Israel after forty days. The report they brought back was that the land surely was a land flowing with milk and honey. They showed the fruit of it. But the people who dwelt there were strong and mighty and there were giants, the sons of Anak. This was quite an ill report to bring to Moses.

Caleb stilled the people and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." But the other men said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we."

Giants are usually large of stature. We might compare them to the giant, Goliath, whom David slew with his sling. He was six cubits and a span, which would be about nine foot, five inches. If the

giants, they saw, were the size of Goliath then they truly would have seemed small in their sight.

The giants we have in mind, as we write these lines, are not men of great stature, but are the characteristics of self-esteem and the various personalities of ours, that are hard to conquer. We face battles each day. The Apostle Paul tells us, in Eph. 6:10-17, to arm ourselves with the armour of God. Then we can defeat the wiles of the devil, for the foes we meet are not of flesh and blood, but are of principalities and powers and are the rulers of the darkness of this world.

Then there are trials and tests, we meet that are as powerful as giants. They may come in the form of a habit or a fleshly lust, which wars against the soul. These are sometimes as hard as giants to conquer.

I John 2:15-16, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world... The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I believe these are as big and powerful as giants to combat. But the Apostle Paul, instructs us what to use and how to use the armour, that is spoken of in the sixth chapter of Ephesians, to combat the fiery darts of the wicked. Some of the greatest defensive weapons are the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. These instruments of protection against the evils of the day, plus prayer and supplication in the spirit, will help us through these evil days.

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

WITNESS

If we are a child of God, we will want to go out and witness for Him. We are to go into all the world and tell the good news of Salvation. God loved us so much He gave His own Son to die on the cross, so we could have a home in Heaven.

When we are blessed by the Lord, we should be willing to share with others. We are to visit the sick, care for the poor, help the widows and orphans. Are we doing this as members? Are we out doing our part or are we depending on the other fellow to do it? Is that what you would call witnessing for the Lord?

We, as Christian Workers, should go out and spread the good news of Salvation. When Jesus called His disciples, He told them to follow Him and He would make them fishers of men. We are to go out and work for lost souls. If we have been called of the Lord, we will want to go out in service. That is the way we grow spiritually; we

don't want to become a stumbling block in the way of others. Do we go out of our way to speak to a lost soul? Do we go visit those who have gone astray? Are we doing all we can to win them back?

If we are losing more souls in the Church than we are gaining, who is to blame? We need to feed the lambs, and also the many sheep, those who have been in the Church for years. Jesus spoke a parable unto them about a lost sheep. If you have a hundred sheep and one was lost, you would leave the ninety and nine and go out and find the lost one. Now, dear ones, we all know that some of our dear ones have wandered away, are we out trying to win them back? Do we care? Are we really concerned about those that have once been near and dear to us and were good workers for the Lord? Let us make a special effort to be a witness to them and try to win them back before it is too late. If we ask the Lord to help us He will never let us down, when we are willing to do our part. Let us pray more and have special called meetings to try to win these dear ones back.

Many years ago, I remember when we had Revivals, a group of loyal Brothers and Sisters would meet every evening before the services for one-half hour of prayer for the lost ones in the community. Souls were brought into the fold. Let us put on the whole armor of God and go forth and witness for Him. The fields are ready to Harvest.

Sister E. M. Alltus

WORK

How interesting this four letter word is! Do we try to keep away from this little word? We all must surely do it, or we will not enter into Eternal Rest. Does it mean exhaustion for some?

This surely means physical labor and is as old as Creation, for in Genesis 2:5 it says that God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. Then God created man and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress and keep it. After the Fall, it was by work that man would eat. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, he gave this one, "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work." Isn't this something? Six days to work! Most men think they can't work five days anymore, but God said six days. God worked six days, then rested. Why does man think he is better than God and only works five? Psalms 104 tells us that we will work from morn till night. I Thess. 4:11-12 says to work with our hands, to do our own business, that we might walk honestly, toward them that are without, and that we may have lack of nothing.

Dear ones in Christ, this not only means physical work, it also means spiritual. Christ told His disciples, "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are

entered into their labours."

In Matthew, the Lord says, "The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few." How many times in your life have you seen this? Look around you and you can see all the work that needs to be done. "The night cometh, when no man can work." When one looks upon this old world and sees all the sin, one wonders where all of the Lord's workers are. If you are a Christian, you should be out in God's vineyard working with a will, a song on your lips and a prayer in your hearts. Otherwise you will be working for Satan.

In Acts, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the WORK whereunto I have called them." So must we work under the direction of the Holy Spirit, for the furtherance of God's Kingdom here on this earth. We are supposed to support others in their work, but we are also to "let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." So our WORK here in the SPIRITUAL sense is tested and tried and if it stands, it brings eventual glory.

So dear Christian Friend, may the Good Lord of all Heaven make you perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight. Keep a song in your heart, a prayer on your lips, and WORK for "the night cometh, when no man can work."

Together in Christian labor
Brother Orvis Smith

CHILDREN'S PAGE

A MAN NAMED ACHAN

JOSHUA 7

Israel was jubilant. They had, with God's help, overthrown Jericho. It was the first victory for them in the land of Canaan. This was the land, God promised Abraham nearly 800 hundred years before. God kept His word and they were confident of victory. Nothing could stop them now; the promised land lay before them and it was theirs for the taking. Of course, there were many other cities besides Jericho and they would have to overcome them, but they were sure they could accomplish all things with God's help.

The next city was Ai, which was about fifteen miles from Jericho. Joshua sent men to Ai to see how strong the city was and what they would need to overcome it. The men reported that it wasn't necessary for all of the people to go but only two or three thousand men. Joshua sent about three thousand men to take Ai, but an unexpected thing happened. The men of Ai killed thirty six men of Israel

and the rest of them turned and ran. The hearts of the people melted and became as water.

What could be wrong? Joshua tore his clothes and fell upon his face before the ark of the Lord and the elders of Israel put dust on their heads. And Joshua prayed to God, "Why has this happened to us? Why did Israel turn their backs before their enemies? What will this do to Thy Great Name?"

And God said, "Israel hath sinned: Someone has taken of the accursed thing."

The Lord told Israel before they captured Jericho that they were to destroy everything but the silver, the gold, and the vessels of brass and iron which were to go into the treasury of the house of the Lord. No one was to take any of this spoil for himself. So Joshua had the tribes of Israel brought to him. Judah seems to be the first tribe to be questioned and when Achan, a man of Judah came before Joshua, he said he had sinned in taking some of the spoils that belonged to the Lord - a Babylonish garment, 200 shekels of silver and a wedge of gold.

Joshua sent men who went to Achan's tent and found the stolen goods hidden as Achan had said. They took Achan and his family and all that he had - his oxen, sheep, asses, the gold, silver and the garment - and brought them to the valley of Achor. There they stoned them with stones and burned them with fire. "And the Lord turned from the fierceness of his anger against Israel."

This seems like a terrible thing to us but God wanted to impress on Israel how awful it was to sin against God and to disobey Him. Do we ever wonder why things don't go right for us? God doesn't like us to sin any more now than He did in Joshua's time. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Brother Rudy Cover

WHEAT AND TARES

"Another parable put forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let

both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." Matthew 13:24-30.

On our way from Jerusalem to Ain-Karen we passed many wheat fields fully headed out, for the time of harvest was near at hand. And now as the blade had sprung up and put forth fruit, behold the tares, which were not visible before, appeared also. These grow much taller than the wheat and were to be seen from the roadside, waving above the fruitful field. As when the Master was in Palestine, so now, the husbandman either pulls up the tares by the roots, taking some wheat at the same time, or suffers both to grow together until the harvest, when they are gathered into bundles and burned. The stalk, when the tares are ripe, is hard and tasteless, and is fit only for fuel. "Wilt thou then that we go and gather them?" shows most conclusively that this was one of the common methods of disposing of the tares. So now, as then, before they are fully ripe they are often plucked up by the root and fed to the cattle. In rambling about the country just at the harvest time one often meets men and women who have on their heads and backs great bundles of tares which they have gathered for food for their animals. But in plucking up the tares, be they ever so careful, they also root up more or less of the wheat. Many farmers, even unto this day, adopt the plan of the householder of whom Jesus spoke, and let both grow together until harvest, when the tares are gathered into bundles and burned. Wishing to bring a handful of tares home with me I went into a wheat field by permission of the owner and plucked them up. I observed the greatest care in trying to uproot the tares without pulling up the wheat also. But I found this impossible to do. Upon examination it was found that the roots of the tares were so intertwined with the wheat that it was impossible to pluck up the one without uprooting the other. How literally in every single detail do the tares growing among the wheat fit into the parable of our Lord. How carefully He must have studied these things.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
Th Eternal Verities



Never be disgruntled with your lot, for perhaps God planned it that way so you can work out the plan He had in mind for you.

THE DANGER ZONE

The following was written after a young man, 18 years old, lost his life while skating beyond the safety zone.

'Twas Christmas Day in Seventy six,
A group had gathered at Middle Creek.
For skating and fun, so pleasant to youth.
And who could refuse these joys to them.

No harm they sought for man or beast,
Only love and joy for innocent sport.
And danger they thought, would not follow them there,
Assembled in peace and fellowship sweet.

But two were lured up stream they say,
And passed into a danger zone.
When all of a sudden - the ice caved in,
And one was caught in the current below.

For two long hours the loved ones waited,
With grief filled hearts, and spirits abated.
But alas - when the news it came -
The spirit had fled to the Great Beyond.

Dear fellow Pilgrims, in this world below,
We too are restricted by God's Word you know.
For Christ has placed the lines so true.
And often we stray into a danger zone.

The way is narrow in the Bible we are told,
That leads us safe to that Blest Abode.
And many a snare and many a trap
Will lure us away into dangers unknown.

So may we then in our journey on earth,
Remember the safety zone that was given to us.
And ask for help and strength from above,
To keep us away from the current below.

Sister Emma W. Stauffer



There are two occasions when the mouth should be shut - when swimming and when angry.

THE HOUSE WHERE I LIVE

You tell me I am getting old.
I tell you that's not so!
The "house" I live in is worn out,
And that, of course, I know.
It's been in use a long, long while;
It's getting somewhat frail.
I'm really not surprised, you see,
It's weathered many a gale.

The color's changing on the roof.
The windows now are dim.
The walls are quite transparent and
They're looking rather thin.
The foundation's not steady
As once it used to be -
My "house" is getting shaky, but
My "house" just isn't ME!

My few short years can't make me old.
I feel I'm in my youth.
Eternity lies just ahead -
A life of joy and truth.
I'm going to live forever there;
Life will go on - it's grand!
You tell me I am getting old?
You just don't understand.

The dweller in my little "house"
Is young and bright and gay;
Just starting on a life to last
Through an eternal day.
You only see the outside, which
Is all that most folks see.
You tell me I am getting old?
You've mixed my "house" with ME!

- Mrs. Keats

Selected by Sister Ruby Sowers



Some people are just too tired to give a smile.... others are too stingy.

NEWS ITEM

NEWBERG, OREGON

The Lord willing, the Newberg Congregation is to have a revival meeting March 6-13. Elder Ray Reed of Dallas Center, Iowa will be the evangelist.

There will be a Lovefeast the evening of March 12. Please pray for these meetings and attend if possible.

Sister Elsie Harlacher, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank each one for the prayers and many remembrances given me. I can only thank you but the Lord can richly bless you. It is comforting to know there are those who care when we have grave trials and afflictions.

Sister Margaret Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH

March 6 — Putting On the New Man. Eph. 4:1-32.

March 13 — Members of the Body of Christ. Eph. 5:1-33.

March 20 — The Whole Armour of God. Eph. 6:1-24.

March 27 — "For Me to Live is Christ." Phil. 1:1-30.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How is it possible for us to reach perfection? Eph. 4:13.
- (2) As members of the Body of Christ we should have no fellowship with the works of darkness; what should we do about them? Eph. 5:11.
- (3) What is the first commandment with promise? Eph. 6:2.
What is the promise? Eph. 6:3; Ex. 20:12.
- (4) What is the sword of the Spirit? Eph. 6:17.
- (5) Although Paul said it would be better to depart and be with Christ, why did he want to continue to live in the flesh? Phil. 1:24.



A brittle thing is speech.
So take precaution how you bend it,
Because anyone can make a break,
But mighty few can mend it.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MARCH, 1977

CONSECRATION

Memory Verse, Lev. 16:32

And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments:

Tues. 1-Ex. 28:1-21

Wed. 2-Ex. 28:22-43

Thur. 3-Ex. 29:1-25

Fri. 4-Ex. 29:26-46

Sat. 5-Ex. 30:1-21

Memory Verse, Lev. 21:10

And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

Sun. 6-Ex. 30:22-38

Mon. 7-Ex. 32:1-18

Tues. 8-Ex. 32:19-35

Wed. 9-Lev. 7:1-20

Thur. 10-Lev. 7:21-38

Fri. 11-Lev. 8:1-21

Sat. 12-Lev. 8:22-36

Memory Verse, Num. 6:7

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

Sun. 13-Lev. 16:1-16

Mon. 14-Lev. 16:17-34

Tues. 15-Lev. 21:1-24

Wed. 16-Num. 3:1-26

Thur. 17-Num. 3:27-51

Fri. 18-Num. 6:1-27

Sat. 19-Jos. 6:1-27

Memory Verse, I Chron. 29:5-B

And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?

Sun. 20-Jud. 17:1-13

Mon. 21-I Kings 13:1-24

Tues. 22-I Chron. 29:1-30

Wed. 23-II Chron. 13:1-22

Thur. 24-II Chron. 26:1-23

Fri. 25-II Chron. 29:1-36

Sat. 26-II Chron. 31:1-21

Memory Verse, II Chron. 29:31

Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

Sun. 27-Ezra 3:1-13

Mon. 28-Eze. 43:1-27

Tues. 29-Mic. 4:1-13

Wed. 30-Heb. 7:1-28

Thur. 31-Heb. 10:1-25

Memory Verse, Heb. 7:28

For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Heb. 10:19 & 20

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

Whatsoever things are lovely,
Whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are honest,
These ought we to think and do.
Deeds and actions well reported,
All things holy, just, and pure,
Living every day for Jesus.
These are virtues that endure!

It is sweet to live for Jesus
As we walk along life's way,
Witnessing by clear example,
True in all we do and say —
Telling others of salvation
He doth give so full and free,
Looking forward unto heaven
Where we'll dwell eternally!

- Pauline Ressler

Selected by Brother Willard Beam

PRIORITIES

There are many choices placed before each individual each day but also throughout his life and even his life beyond this earthly life. The individual must choose which things are the most important to him. Once a man decides whether the things of God or the things of the world are the most important, his whole style of living will be influenced. A man's priorities will among other things determine how he will pursue his financial life.

In this age, bigness is looked upon as the normal desire of individuals. All round can be seen the examples of governments, businesses and labor unions. They have all gotten big and powerful. Their example is before the Christian. Will he follow it? Or will he follow his God? His answer will depend on what his priorities are.

There are many examples in the Bible of those who placed their priorities on the wrong thing. The Wise Man speaks of one who drove himself to accumulate more and more with no purpose in mind. "There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail." Eccles. 4:8. He was not content with what he had. He had an unfulfilled hunger for riches and power. He was not the last man in this world to push himself and deny himself so he could have more and more. He never reached the saturation point.

Jesus spoke of the Rich Fool. He was blessed with an abundance of material prosperity. When finally his thirst for more was abated,

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

he decided to give himself over to sensuality. He was going to gratify his flesh in all the ways he had denied himself as he had gathered his wealth. He had prospered materially but he had forgotten about his soul's needs. This man had undoubtedly been a good neighbor, a good provider for his family and certainly very diligent in his labor but he had had no time for God.

Jesus met, one time, a rich young ruler. There was hope that this young man might prove to have his priorities in the right order for he seemed religious. But when the choice had to be made between his riches and his soul, he too proved to have his priorities mixed up. His religion was only a veneer that had no effect upon what he considered to be important.

Many today have their priorities turned around like these men of old. They may have a religious veneer but their choices in life reflect a love for the things of the world. Their desire is to accumulate wealth. As long as they have a small farm or small business, they may do alright but the siren call of riches causes them to go astray. As they increase their income and their spending, they have a powerful desire to have more and more. They go into debt deeper and do everything on a larger scale, although in the end they find they have about the same return but at greater risk.

The greatest error of their new course is not their financial risk but their Spiritual risk. There is a Spiritual price to pay when priorities are out of order in financial affairs. The first error is the lack of contentment with the present blessings given by God. Paul could be content in whatever situation he found himself but many people, even Christians, are not content today.

As a man pursues a greater fortune he has greater temptations to acquire that wealth by illegal or immoral means. He is willing to cut corners because his highest priority is to make money. Compromise for the sake of growth is not limited to individuals seeking their fortunes. It has also been found in churches, where there has been an overwhelming importance placed on numbers above true conversion and Christian living.

When a man sets his business as his top priority, that business often ends up "running" the man instead of him running it. He finds he no longer has time to do all that he should. He neglects himself, his family and his church. As he prospers, or seems to, he becomes lax first in his private Bible study and prayer, then later he lacks time to even go to Church.

There are many risks for the man who chooses his farm or his business and its growth as his greatest priority. In the end he may find the price was higher than he expected not only financially but spiritually as well.

Where have you placed your priorities? Is it in your farm or your business? Or is it your soul?

ENEMIES ARE TO LOVE

"Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth." Prov. 24:17. "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink." Prov. 25:21. It takes a heart filled with God's love to feel sorry for an enemy. When someone has been unkind to you or cut you down with sharp words, it takes God's love to keep from rejoicing when that enemy finally gets his just reward. Enemies are to love, but you can't do it without God.

As human beings, we have a tendency to feel glad when someone finally "gets put in his place", or gets some of his own unkindness back and learns how it feels to suffer. But God wants us to have compassion, to love our enemies, to ease their suffering when we can. Jesus loves us in spite of what we are; we should love others in spite of what they are. Our love must reach beyond our friends, our own kind, unto those who need it most.

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31. This applies to our behavior toward ALL men, not just those we like or find easy to get along with. The Golden Rule requires love above average. It doesn't say to return evil for evil, but to give out what we want to get back. If we want love and kindness, we must give it to others. If we give hate, criticism, unkindness and such like, that's what we'll get back whether we want it or not.

I Cor. 13 tells how love acts and reacts, how love is radiated and shared. It tells how meaningless life is without love. Love may need more time to work, but it will win out, because verse 8 says that charity (love) never fails. Charity, or love, is longsuffering, kind, and is concerned for others. Charity is not easily provoked. Maintaining a calm spirit even when an enemy aggravates you indicates that you have God's love within and you are under His control.

Charity doesn't think evil; this means wishing your enemy well, instead of wishing he would "get what he deserves". An enemy can be drawn to God through love, but resentment and returning evil for evil only drives him farther away. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Prov. 15:1. God's love in our hearts promotes obedience to His will, both in ourselves and others.

"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye

more than others? do not even the publicans do so? Matt. 5:44-47.

Jesus has commanded us to love our enemies, to bless them, to do good to them and pray for them. Why? So we can be God's children. If we love only those who love us and salute our brethren only, we haven't done any better than the sinners. As God's children, we should be able to love even when we are not loved in return. God manifests His love to all people by blessing them naturally, even though many of them do not love Him. We are to follow His example.

Someday God will deal with all our enemies and His. He will mete out punishment as He sees fit. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19b. It takes wisdom that we don't have, to judge fairly, so God reserved that for Himself. He has not given us any right to seek revenge, but has given us the privilege of loving people instead. It is a privilege to love, to be kind and then to see someone respond to that love. Enemies are to love now, so share the love that Christ put in your heart. No one needs your love so much as he who has none to give.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

GARDENS

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." Gen. 2:8-9.

In God's Garden man is His most precious seed. He has placed man in, "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." Deut. 11:12. Man is always under the watchful eye of his Maker.

In the early spring, all gardeners begin thinking of planting their gardens. The ads in the papers and magazines offer "Package Deals" - several packets of seeds of different flowers or vegetables. But you are not sure till they grow, mature and produce fruit, whether you will get what the picture on the seed packets show. Some nurseries offer started plants. They take a lot of care: watering, weeding and pruning.

"Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth:... and when the sun was up they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the

thorns sprung up, and choked them; But others fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirtyfold." Matt. 13:3-8.

A few years ago I bought a "Package Deal". It was a combination offer of eighteen flowering shrubs, blooming bushes, trees, vines and border plants. I was disappointed. The plants were much smaller than I had expected. Nevertheless, I had bought them and they were all mine. I chose where I wanted to plant them. Some grew, some died and some were stunted. My grandson called them "Grandma's Scrubs". Scrubs they may have been, but those shrubs and trees that lived are doing alright. One, I hadn't bargained for, was a honeysuckle vine that threatened to take over. It had to be pruned and pruned and finally was dug up and burned.

Jesus bought a "Package Deal" when He died on the Cross for the whole world. He paid an awful price. It was no bargain, that is for sure. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:20. How few, whom He paid so much for, bear fruit for Him.

The Apostles were surely a mixed "Package Deal". There were fishermen, a tax collector and a doubter in the group, plus Judas, the betrayer. But look at what Jesus made of those men. He told them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19. The words and works of those Apostles are still catching men and drawing them to Christ. For example: Peter's sermon and call to repentance in Acts 2:41. We read, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." And in Acts 5:14, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes, both men and women." Jesus prayed to the Father not only for his disciples, when He was about to leave them, but for us, too. John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

I, also am a "Package Deal". Jesus bought me at Calvary — all of me, my moods: good or bad, my joys and my sorrows. He placed me where He wanted me to be. Now, I may have a different idea, and like the honeysuckle vine grow away from where He wants me. Then I must be pruned and brought back. But as I lay "aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, envies and all evil speakings, as a newborn babe (I WILL) desire the sincere milk of the Lord, that (I) may grow thereby." I Pet. 2:1-2.

Marriage, likewise, is a "Package Deal". Each accepts the other for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, in poverty or in wealth. Marriage partners either grow together or grow apart.

Sharing is important. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that if any obey not the Word, they also may without the Word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." I Pet. 3:1-2. Verse 7, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." The devil would sow discord and disrupt the harmony of the home. But his seed will not take root and grow if there is love and trust.

All the earth's a garden sweet
Making life a bliss complete
When there's love at Home.
Kindly Heaven smiles above
When there's love at Home.
All the earth is filled with love
When there's love at Home
Sweeter sings the brooklet by,
Brighter beams the azure sky;
O, there's One that smiles on High,
When there's love at Home.

"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside. But he that receiveth the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Matt. 13:18-23.

In the cool of the day, He walks with me,
In the rose bordered way, He talks with me.
In love's holy union, In sacred communion,
In the Garden of my heart.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar, Waterford, Calif. 95386

ON THIS DAY . . .

Mend a quarrel.
Search out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.
Give a soft answer.
Encourage youth.
Manifest your loyalty in a word or deed.
Keep a promise.
Forgive an enemy.
Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong.
Try to understand.
Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else.
Appreciate, be kind, be gentle.
Deserve confidence.
Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency.
Express your gratitude.
Worship your God.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still once again.

Source Unknown
Selected by Sister Sylvia E. Parker

THE CLOSED DOOR

Many years ago, I read about a lady who had a nine month old baby. They lived in an upper flat in an apartment house. One bright and sunny morning, she decided to take the baby and go for a walk. She put the baby on the bedroom floor and took the baby buggy down to the porch. She had pulled the door nearly shut. But when she was nearly back to the door, it went shut. The baby had crawled to the door and pushed it shut. Oh! Can you imagine how she felt? No key and the baby was inside the door. Her key was in her purse inside the house. She went as fast as she could to the store and called her husband and asked him to bring his key home at once. She went back to the house as quickly as she could and stood by the locked door trying to talk to the baby who was inside crying. Soon her husband arrived and opened the door. This was a happy occasion for both of the parents.

Many times I have thought of this story and wondered whether lost souls ever thought how it would be if the door of Salvation suddenly would close. What would they do? I am sure there would be no more chance for them to go to that wonderful Home the Lord has prepared for all the faithful. In Genesis 7, we read about a man who belonged to the Lord. The Lord had him build an ark for his wife, his three sons and their wives. He followed the orders given him. At the appointed time, they entered the ark and the door was closed. All the others perished. Can you imagine how many of the others would have liked to have entered after the door was closed? Sinner, if you do not come to the Lord, while you still have time, this is what is going to happen to you. Only eight precious souls were saved. Dear ones, many times you have heard the call to accept the Lord and live for Him. Why have you turned it down? You do not know if you will ever have another call. Oh, how sad it will be when there is no room in that Beautiful Home for you. Many times you were so near, but yet so far, when you did not yield to His call. Is this what will happen to you?

Are you ready today to meet your Lord? In Matthew 25, we read about the ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. Won't you please take the time to see what the Lord says about those who were left outside the door, when the Bridegroom came and those who were ready went in and the door was closed? He told the foolish virgins, He never knew them. Which of these virgins do you want to be? You had better make a check-up on your life and see how you stand before the Lord. If you have not opened the door of your heart to the Lord, you will be in the same place the foolish virgins were. When you hear the Lord and Master say, "I never knew you", it will be very sad. I am sure none of you want that to happen to you. That day may be closer than you think.

Some of you accepted the Lord and worked in His vineyard for years, then you left and again went out into the world of sin and took some of your dear ones along. This is very sad, for you as parents are responsible for the little ones that have come into your homes.

Let each of us this New Year strive to enter in at the strait gate. We are told that there will be many who will try to get in, but won't be able, after the Lord has closed the door. That is the end. There will be no more chance.

Let us each one strive to save some poor soul, while we still have the chance. As you read this, will you please stop and see if you are doing all you can to help others who are away from Christ. Let us show more love for one another. Let us help those who need help. Let us go all the way to help those who are lost, to see the joy of being a child of God.

Sister E. M. Alltus

CHILDREN'S PAGE

ISRAEL DESTROYS AI

Joshua 8:1-31

And the Lord said unto Joshua, "I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land." Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men and sent them away by night and commanded them to go to Ai and hide themselves close to the city and wait. Joshua's plan was to take other men with him and approach the city to cause the men of Ai to come out against them, as they had before when they had defeated Israel.

Joshua took his army that night and some of them he hid on the north side of the city and some on the west. There was a valley between them and the city of Ai. Joshua and other men of Israel went up early in the morning in the midst of the valley in plain sight of the City of Ai. The King of Ai saw them and thinking that he could defeat them as before, gathered all his men from Ai and went out against Joshua. Joshua and his part of the army acted like they were beaten and ran before the soldiers of Ai into the wilderness. The Lord said unto Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine hand." Joshua stretched out the spear in his hand toward the city. The army that was hiding on the two sides of Ai saw Joshua signal with his spear. Since the gates of the city were open and the city was undefended, they entered and captured Ai and set it on fire.

When the soldiers of Ai who were chasing Joshua looked behind them, they saw the smoke of the city and realized that they had been tricked. Behind them an army of Israel was coming after them. When Joshua and his men saw the city had been taken and was burning, they turned around and fought the men of Ai. Caught between the two armies of Israel, the army of Ai didn't have a chance and was soon overcome. Israel let none of them escape. The inhabitants of Ai were utterly destroyed and the King of Ai was hanged on a tree. Only the cattle and spoil of the city, that the Lord commanded them to take, did they save. Joshua burnt Ai and made it a desolate place. Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings unto God.

How different it went when Israel obeyed God. They were given wisdom and strength to overcome their enemies. If we obey God, He will bless us and give us strength to overcome. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

Brother Rudy Cover

FOLLOW THE STRAIGHT HIGHWAY

Greetings to young boys and girls
In the name of Christ our King;
Fling high His royal banner,
Sweet praises to Him sing.

He heads a mighty army
That's marching thro' the earth,
He is calling now for volunteers
To enter by new birth.

You boys and girls are at the age
Where two roads are in view,
You have the privilege to choose
Be careful, what you do.

Old Satan heads the Broadway,
His plans are to deceive,
Jesus heads the narrow way
Eternal life to give.

Jesus loves you dearly,
His life for you He gave,
That you might join His army
And help some soul to save.

He wants soldiers brave and true
Who'll stand against all wrong,
He gives an armor, sword, and shield
He says He'll make you strong.

So who'll be the first brave one
To really from the heart
Say, "Here am I" to this great King
And for the battle start.

Old Satan says, "Don't do it,
You know you're sure to fall."
Just turn a deaf ear to him
And on your Saviour call.

Remember, you won't stand alone,
For Jesus will be there.
When you feel weak and helpless
Just go to Him in prayer.

His loving arms will lift you,
His grace will make you strong,
With Him you'll win the battle
And shout the victor's song.

Selected by Sister Ruth N. Snyder
Gettysburg, Ohio

FRIEND

Dear brother and sister in Christ. The title of this, is a word that to me is very intriguing.

To each and every one it has a very special meaning. What does it mean to you? It can mean so many things. We think of our friends as people on whom we can depend in time of need and with whom we share our greatest joys.

Do we call the Lord our friend? The Saviour said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends..." Isn't it wonderful to know that we can be friends with our Lord and Saviour? Can the Lord call us friends? Are we doing what He has commanded, or are we doing only part of it and still expecting Him to call us friends?

What kind of friends do we have? What kind of friends are we? Do we have the right kind of friends? Are they serving the Lord or are they serving Satan? If our friends don't work for the Lord, should we call them friends? Would we lay down our lives for our friends? Would our friends lay down their lives for us? If it came to laying down our lives for someone, would we think of them as friends? If it came to this, just how many friends would we have?

Would we give our lives for Jesus? If we wouldn't, can we call ourselves friends of His? Our Saviour said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Our Lord and Saviour laid down His life for us, that we might have life. Are we better than He? Do we think we are? Would we give our lives for the Lord? If we won't do whatsoever he has commanded, the answer has to be "No."

Jesus tells us that He will never leave us or forsake us. What better show of being a friend could we ask? This is true friendship when this happens. Can we say the same for our service to Him? If we can say the same, then Jesus can call us friends. Who would we rather have call us friends?

Even when our Lord was betrayed in the Garden he called Judas, friend. Matthew 26:50. Are we betraying our Jesus by not doing all he has commanded us?

Proverbs 14:20 tells of the rich having many friends. When we are rich in the love of our Lord, we will have many friends, who love the Lord also. Our friends here on this earth can be very close to us. We read in I Sam. 20:17 of how close David and Jonathan were. Or we can have friends like Job's who traveled many miles to give of their sympathy. Then again we can be friends with our Lord like Abraham. All we need do is to listen to Him and do whatsoever He has commanded us.

If we show that we want to be friends with the Lord, He will always

be faithful, He will always be there in time of need, He will always be there when we need advice or sympathy. Who could ever turn down a friend so dear? If we cannot call Jesus our friend, where will we spend eternity?

When we have a friend in Jesus, do we need another? Yes, we need friends here on earth but we shouldn't let them take the place of our Friend in Heaven, for He is the best Friend we will ever have.

A friend through Christ,
Brother Orvis Smith

OBITUARY

MARY KNOLL

Sister Mary M. Knoll departed this life on January 6, 1977 at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Home, at the age of 69 years.

She was a member of the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church. Her husband, Fred Knoll, passed away in 1974.

She is survived by five daughters, three sons and one sister.

Funeral Services were conducted by Bro. Jack Snyder at the Clauser Funeral Home, Schaffertown, Pennsylvania. Interment in Hains Church Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

MINISTERIAL LIST

The new telephone number of Elder Ray R. Reed is 515 - 992-3031.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation, Frystown, Pennsylvania plans to hold a revival meeting March 20 to April 3, 1977. Elder Dean St. John of the Pleasant Ridge, Ohio congregation has consented to be with us. We extend a hearty invitation for all to come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center, Iowa congregation plans to have spring meetings on April 2 and 3, 1977. Services on Saturday morning,

afternoon, and Love Feast at 7:30 in the evening. All day services on Sunday.

We invite you to come, worship and pray with us.

Sister Juanita Reed, Cor.

HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

Quite a number of Dunkard Brethren brothers and sisters have chosen Homestead or some nearby town as their winter home while in Florida. Bro. and Sis. Jacob Gibbel have made it their year-around home.

Bro. Verling Wolfe built his new home with an extra large living room so services could be held there.

It was the privilege of Sis. Mary Keller and myself to go down with Bro. and Sis. James Kegerreis for a two week stay. We arrived January 19, in spite of driving about three hours in a snowstorm in Florida.

On Sunday morning, Sunday School and preaching were held with an attendance of twenty-two. Bro. Joseph Flora of Dallas Center, Iowa brought the message from I John 3:3. In the evening, singing was held with remarks by Bro. David Ebling and Bro. James Kegerreis.

It was decided to hold a lovefeast on the afternoon and evening of January 29. This was the highlight of the winter season for several families who were not able to return North for communion services. Bro. and Sis. Lee Flory, Bro. and Sis. Jacob Gibbel, Bro. Ernest Buckingham, Bro. David Ebling, Bro. and Sis. James Kegerreis, Bro. and Sis. Verling Wolfe, Sisters Anita, Cindy and Sylvia Wolfe, Bro. Dale Aungst, Bro. Ezra Beery, Sis. Esther Blocher, Sis. Mary Keller and Sis. Ruth Drake surrounded the tables.

On Sunday morning, services were held with Bro. James Kegerreis bringing the message from the story of Balaam and Balak as found in Numbers 22-24.

We returned home feeling that we had been privileged to meet God in a very special way through the various services.

Sister Ruth Drake
R. 3, Box 312, Manheim, Pa. 17545

THANK YOU

We thank you for the cards, letters and kind thoughts expressed to us on our Sixtieth Anniversary. We were doubly blessed by the presence of all eleven of our children and by reasonable health to

enjoy the occasion.

Thank you again, and the Lord bless you.

Bro. and Sis. W. S. Reed
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

EXHORTATION

Let the Peace of God Rule in Your Hearts—Peace. Colossians 3:15.

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You—Strength. Colossians 3:16.

Let His Mind be in You—Conformity. Philippians 2:5.

Let Your Moderation be Known Unto all—Character. Phil. 4:5.

Let Your Conversation be Without Covetousness—Conduct. Heb. 13:5.

Let Your Light so Shine Before Men—Testimony. Matt. 5:16.

Let Your Life be Ever Ready—Watchfulness. Luke 12:36.

SEVEN STEPS IN PETER'S FALL

Doubts. Matthew 14:28, with 16:23

Boasts. Mark 14:27-31, with I Cor. 10:12.

Sleeps. Mark 14:37, with Romans 13:11.

Smites. John 18:10, with Luke 22:50.

Follows Afar Off. Luke 22:54.

Sits With the Ungodly. Luke 22:55.

Denies the Lord. Luke 22:57-62.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Master's Authority. Matthew 28:18 - John 17:2.

The Servant's Commission. Matthew 28:19 - Mark 16:15.

The Making of Disciples. Matthew 28:19 - Acts 14:21.

The Baptising of Them. Matthew 28:19 - Acts 10:48.

Teaching Them all Things. Matthew 28:20 - Acts 14:28.

The Promised Presence. Matthew 28:20 - Acts 11:21

SAINTS OF NEW TESTAMENT TIME

Showing Varied Spiritual Conditions

Believing Romans. Romans 1:8.

Progressive Thessalonians. II Thessalonians 1:3.

Obedient Philippians. Philippians 2:12.

Loving Colossians. Colossians 1:4.

Faithful Ephesians. Ephesians 1:1.

Carnal Corinthians. I Corinthians 3:3.

Foolish Galatians. Galatians 3:1.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

MARCH 15, 1977

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE PROPHET - CHILD

Within the Temple slept the child,
The after-prop of Israel's fame.
When o'er his slumbers, calm and mild,
The summons of Jehovah came.

The call was heard, the child awoke;
With beating heart and bending knee
The future judge and prophet spoke,—
"Speak, Lord, the servant heareth thee!"

Oh when we hear Jehovah's voice
Breaking the slumber of the soul,
So may we rise, and so rejoice,
So bend our will to His control!

His summons calls us even now;
Oh, may each instant answer be,
"Father, to thy commands I bow,—
Speak, for thy servant heareth thee!"

- Author Unknown

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Many of the proposals and plans of the women's liberation movement would be laughable if they were not opposed to the teachings of the Bible. Actually they are not laughable but are tools of the Devil to further break down the authority of the Word of God.

We see the effects of this crusade in dress, manners and employment. The Biblical standard of modesty and separation of styles for the man and women has been blatantly ignored. It is difficult, today, to find those who hold to a modest standard of dress even among Church people. Today, women are as bold in the use of liquor, drugs and cigarettes as men. They seem to lack any feelings of shame in the display of their bodies or by the content of their speech. Now women are entering many professions formerly closed to them. This may not be wrong in itself except it draws them from their natural place of service, the home. Surely this movement has had a great influence over the past few years. Is it all for good?

Women want to be liberated. When their past bondage is considered, it is no wonder. Women were considered only to be property, much the same as cattle or sheep, by most societies in the ancient and even by some in the modern world. The woman's place was elevated somewhat among the Jews, but her lot was still a hard one. The greatest hope for women has been Christianity. Christ brought a personal, saving Gospel that was designed for women as well as men. Here was her equality. Circumcision was

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

the rite of admission into the Jewish religion. Therefore men were the only ones who could fully comply with the requirement. Women were as "stepchildren" of the Jewish religion. After Christ's establishment of the Church, baptism became the rite of admission. It could be administered to both male and female. Paul spoke of all things gathered together into one in Ephesians in speaking of the Jews and Gentiles being on equal footing in the Church. The same could be said about male and female. All improvements in the lot of women have come because of the teachings of the Bible. Without the Bible, women would still be considered as being only property. Yet today it is this supposed "liberation" movement that is seeking to set aside Biblical teachings about the duties and responsibilities of women.

In His creation of women, God has given her many talents. These talents are complementary to those of the man. Few men, if any, could handle the duties surrounding the care of children and the keeping of a home. This is the woman's natural domain. God made her that way. When she tries to trade her natural domain for that of the man she is going to be frustrated, unhappy and lacking peace. Paul instructed the older women to teach the younger in the homemaking arts and the proper care of husband and family. If the older women let down in their duty, it will not be very many generations until these responsibilities will be largely ignored. Have we not seen the fruit of the neglect of this teaching over the past two or three generations?

Today there is a lack of humility among all classes of people, young and old, men and women. This "liberation" movement has especially brought a spirit of pride and lack of submission into the home and marriage. As women earn a greater share of the income, they demand more power within the home. Despite God's teachings on the proper relationship of the husband and wife, many have set themselves in rebellion not only against their husbands but also against God.

The marriage relationship provides a fitting picture of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church. Christ has given Himself for His Bride even as a husband should be willing to do all possible for the good of his wife. Christ has been set as the Head of the Church. The Church is to listen to Him and to obey His voice. The wife is to be in subjection to her husband in the same way. She is to give up her will and way to her husband, having confidence that he knows what is best, just as Christ knows what is best for His Bride. When there is rebellion in the Church against the Headship of Christ and rejection of His commands, there is a loss of blessings. When the wife rebels against her husband, there is disruption in the home. God has established an order in all things,

even in the roles of man and woman. When order is not maintained in natural things there is confusion. If a file cabinet is not kept in order, it will prove to be almost useless. God's order must be maintained in the home and in the Church.

The teachings of the Bible on this subject are from God. His order must be maintained if there is to be harmony in the home and Spiritual growth in the Church.

BROKEN? OR JUST BENT?

When you bend a twig, it will return to its original position once the pressure is released. If you apply enough pressure, it will break and will not be able to return to its former shape. To be bent is to be crooked; also it can mean determined or set. There is resistance to change, because the mind is made up. Something broken is parted by violence into two or more pieces, or it can mean crushed or humbled, as a broken spirit. Every person is either "bent" or "broken" before God. Which are you?

Sometimes people bend toward God when they are in trouble, then when the pressure is off, they return to their old ways. They use God as a "fire escape" and ignore Him the rest of the time. If you are only bending toward God, you are resisting Him. There is no promise to the "bent" in heart, those who are resisting the Spirit, except the promise of condemnation. The blessings of God are promised to the "broken" in heart.

God is not pleased when we resist Him, anymore than a parent is pleased when a child resists. Did you ever pick up a child and feel his body stiffen in rebellion? You soon take measures to correct him so he won't resist you. Sometimes God must do that with us, as He did with the children of Israel. "And my people are bent to backsliding from me." Hosea 11:7a. Even though God had done everything for the Israelites, they still resisted and turned away. They were bent in the wrong direction, and they received punishment many times to correct them. If we resist God, we need correction.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7. "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt. 21:44. We are to submit to God, to be broken before Him. When we come to Christ (the stone) for forgiveness, our spirits will be broken because of sorrow for the way we have lived. If we wait for Christ to deal with us in our rebellion, we will be destroyed. The only way to be saved is to come without resistance. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalms 34:18.

Sometimes we must suffer and have much sorrow before we can be what God wants us to be. When great trouble comes to us after we are Christ's, we can't understand why. We wonder what we did to deserve it and our hearts become broken and crushed. It hurts us, as it hurt Job, to have everything taken from us. Our friends may be as Job's: condemning us and adding to our misery. It may seem that even God does not care, but He is only taking away what we have, so He can give us something better. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Allowing us to suffer until we are completely broken is God's way of bringing out the "gold" in us.

Christ obeyed God, even though it meant much suffering, not for Himself, but for us. The Bible says He learned obedience by the things which He suffered, and being made perfect, He provided salvation to all who obey Him. (Heb. 5:8-9). It was God's will for Christ to die on the Cross and He provided the necessary strength. An angel ministered to Christ when He prayed, for His soul was "sorrowful unto death." (Mark 14:34). Our grief in a time of suffering may be so great that we feel out of touch with God and unable to pray, but He will strengthen us somehow. He won't forsake us.

When we suffer, we gain compassion and understanding of others' needs. When our suffering completely breaks us and we've come to the end of ourselves, then God can use us best. Then, we can receive His strength wholly. Christ suffered for the sake of others and sometimes our suffering is for others. Without the compassion we gain, we wouldn't comprehend the sufferings of others nor would we care. What good are we in the Lord's work if we don't care about others and love them as Christ has loved us?

To be broken in heart is to be crushed and humbled, no longer resisting God. To be bent is to have a set mind and heart which is resisting God. Which is it for you? Are you broken, or just bent?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

WHY BAPTIZE?

This is an important question, since our salvation depends on our correct answer. I know in the Christian world today, there are many theories concerning this subject. Most people with whom we speak, do not consider baptism to be necessary to be saved. The question is, what does the Bible teach?

First, Christ made it a condition of salvation, when He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. Here, Christ didn't say, "just believe and ye shall be saved," but instead,

He said it takes both, faith and baptism, to be saved.

Second. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, made baptism for the remission of sins, when he said, Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Here, Peter made baptism necessary in order to receive the remission of sins and also to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Both are essential for salvation.

Third. Paul in Rom. 6:3 says, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." In Gal. 3:27, again Paul says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." These passages teach us that we are baptized into Jesus Christ and that being baptized into Christ we put on Christ. Without being in Christ there is no salvation. And the only way to get into Christ, is to be baptized into Him. Therefore we are baptized, because it is a condition of pardon. It is for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38.

The three thousand on the day of Pentecost were baptized. We are baptized because it is part of every case of conversion found in the Acts of the Apostles. We read in Acts 8:12 that the Samaritans, "... when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 18:8, "... and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

Therefore, we are baptized into Christ and into His death and arise to walk in a newness of life. Rom. 6:3-6. We cannot be saved outside of Christ "He is the way, the truth, and the life," John 14:6. Salvation is in no other name. Acts 4:12. All Spiritual blessings are in Christ. Eph. 1:3. By faith, we are baptized into Christ, thereby putting on Christ. Gal. 3:27-28. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. Baptism gives one, "... the answer of a good conscience toward God..." I Peter 3:21. "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." I John 2:3. After being baptized we can rejoice even as the Ethiopian eunuch and the Phippian jailer did following their baptism. Acts 8:39, Acts 16:33-34.

We are confident and happy because we know that all our sins are forgiven through the cleansing afforded by the "blood of Christ," which He shed in His death. Rom. 5:8-9, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

We can see by the facts given that baptism is necessary in order to be saved and to have fellowship with Christ.

Brother W. E. Bashor

HEAVEN

God is thinking of His children night and day. The Scriptures say, "He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." He thinks of them and their interests in this world, and earnestly desires that they shall have a part in the world to come. This present life is only a fleeting shadow, but the life to come is an eternal reality.

Words, no matter how eloquent, would be inadequate to describe the glories of that Better Land. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him," I Cor. 2:9.

We read in Philippians 3:20-21, that our bodies will be changed to resemble Jesus' glorious, or resurrected, body. "...when he shall appear, we shall be like him..." I John 3:2.

When He met with the disciples, after the Resurrection, Jesus made it very clear to His followers that He was a real material being. He stated this in Luke 24:39, "... a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." He not only stated that He had flesh and bones, but He asked them to verify this by handling Him. Thomas, who happened to be absent at the first appearance of Jesus, among the Apostles refused to believe that Jesus had appeared to them in person. When Jesus made His second appearance, Thomas was present. Jesus said to him, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing," John 20:27.

Christ could and did partake of food in His resurrected body, as we read in Luke 24:41-43, "And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb and he took it, and did eat before them." So in the future abode of the saved, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city," Rev. 22:14. Those who are living and belong to Jesus at His coming, will not see death, but will be changed into immortal beings.

A certain woman once said, "I am afraid I would get tired of living if I knew that I had to live forever." There is no such word as "tired" in the vocabulary of the Better Land. Here the eyes grow dim, the frame trembles, the journey's end is reached. It does not matter if it be the artist, who spreads upon the canvas the glowing colors of the sunset shining over the peaceful landscape, or the astronomer, who sits up nights beholding the wonders of the starry heavens, or the business man, who sees his affairs growing more and more prosperous and successful.

An extension of a hundred years, to our present life would be generous, and we would be happy. It would afford us time to finish many tasks that must of necessity be left undone. Heaven will be a place that death will never enter: no funeral trains, no farewell partings. The aches that rock the body and fears that distress and perplex the mind will have no place there.

Entrance into this beautiful country, called Heaven, is not based on our financial standing or on intellectual endowments. It is free to all who really wish to become like the Master. In Rev. 21:27, we read of the class that will be admitted, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Just what is required to get one's name in the Lamb's book of life is indicated in Rev. 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Jesus not only guarantees you the certainty of entering the gates of Glory, but He says you may have an abundant entrance. He not only agrees to get you through the judgment, but He will "...present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy," Jude 24.

He does not wait for you to come. He is out seeking for you.

Brother Ray S. Shank

THE TEMPLE

The temple — is it of God? Do we realize that our body is considered to be a temple of God? Do we keep our bodies without spot or blemish, so the Holy Spirit might dwell therein? If we do not keep these bodies undefiled for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are told that God will destroy them.

Our Saviour told the Jews in John 2:19, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Will He raise the temple which you possess? If we aren't very careful the temple of our souls becomes dingy and dirty with the cares of this world. We get a smudge here, a streak there. How are we going to clean this temple? If we don't clean up this temple and keep it clean, we cannot expect the Holy Spirit to be indwelling us. If the Holy Spirit isn't indwelling, how can we expect to live the kind of life that will take us to a home in Heaven?

If we haven't already started cleaning our temples, let us start. It will be a day-by-day, hour-by-hour job because we must be very

careful that we don't let any worldly smudges or stains in. We must filter all the things that enter the temple through the Word of God. If it can pass through this filter, it will be good for the temple. It will keep it clean so the Holy Spirit can be indwelling.

Paul tells us in Eph. 3:17, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." This faith will be considered as one of the first things we use as a filter. The next thing we can use is love, the love of our Saviour.

Isn't it amazing how, when we have faith, trust, hope, and lean on the Everlasting Arm, that we start building our temple. So let us use the Holy Scripture as our foundation, our Lord Jesus as the chief corner stone "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit."

When our temple is inhabited with the Holy Spirit, we can offer "the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." If we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our lives, this sacrifice will be kept holy and continually in praise to God.

So dear, Christian friend let us do all we can to keep this temple without spot or blemish, so the Holy Spirit will be indwelling. Let us lean upon the Spirit for guidance in our daily lives, so we might present this temple to God without spot or blemish.

In Christian love,
Brother Orvis Smith

"...BUT THE DUNKERS WEEP"

Sometime back, in speaking with a brother, the conversation turned to the feelings and emotions manifested in religious experience. As we talked about the expression of religious feelings, he mentioned that when he was younger in the area of the country where he came from, there was a common saying that many of the local church groups shout, "but the Dunkers weep".

I have turned this over and over in my mind in the past year and find there is far more than superficial meaning here. Those with whom I have shared this have suggested various reasons as to why they think the Dunkers weep.

First let us look back over the years and compare them with today. The brother in his conversation mentioned that tears are not so much in evidence as they were years ago, and we feel this is also true in the past quarter of a century we can remember. We can well recall the "farewell addresses" and other sermons delivered with power. Sometimes every heart was moved, and hardly an eye was dry. Why? Today we do not see this display of emotion so often. Why not? Yet still today we often enough see and hear evidence of the spirits of men and women being moved by the Spirit of God. Again, why with weeping?

Let us say now that tears are not to be considered evidence of weakness in the sense we usually understand it. Again, weeping is not the same as crying. The latter is associated with the physical needs of a child or an adult. Crying is a louder lament, calling for aid of one sort or another, while weeping may be silent — simply the quivering lip or the tear-filled eye. It may be in sorrow, but it may just as well be for joy. And this brings us to the question, "Why do the Dunkers weep?"

The religious experience is not easy to set down in words. It is a feeling difficult to convey by sentences, either spoken or written. It is born out of a knowledge of sins forgiven. It is the awareness that Jesus, our Lord, took upon Himself the body of sinful flesh and, holy and righteous as He was, suffered unspeakably for our sakes. When one contemplates the pity He showed for us, the heart is moved with emotion which rises from the bosom and gathers in the eyes. The weeping of which we speak is not an ungrounded emotional fire fanned to a flame of irrational sentimentalism. To the prophet of old, God was not in the wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire. God was in the still small voice. (I Kings 19:12). This is the religious experience of which we speak. And when this still small voice speaks to the Dunkers, it has been for many generations manifested in weeping. One of the author's ancestors of the late seventeen hundreds was known in eastern Pennsylvania as the weeping preacher because he never rose to his feet to speak without weeping.

Let us look further into the emotions manifested by those professing Christianity today. One said to me, "Do you feel it, brother?" And again I was asked, "But do you really feel it?" The implication was that I did not feel what he thought I should feel, and his doubt was fostered by the fact that my feelings had not been manifested by shouting, prophesying, and speaking in tongues. This brings us to thoughts on the "charismatic movement", which has become popular in professed Christendom in the past decade or so. We think it is very pertinent to our subject, and to the old saying that "Some churches shout, but the Dunkers weep."

The charismatic movement takes its name from the word charisma, which means "a quality of leadership that inspires great popular allegiance." In theology it represents an alleged divinely inspired gift such as tongues, prophecies, and healings. It is often associated with emotionalism and shouting, with strong references to manifestations of fire, ominously reminiscent of Rev. 13 and the two-horned dragon beast which is to make fire come down from heaven. Now they tell me that if I don't "feel the spirit" I don't have it, and I don't have the spirit if I don't prophesy, speak in tongues, or shout for joy.

Such emotionalism, of course, inspires "great popular allegiance". It now cuts across church creeds and fellowships and has swept into its ranks people of all walks and stations of life. This form of neo-Pentecostalism, however, seems incompatible with the tenor of the Gospel and of Brethren thinking. So now there is even more meaning to the saying that "The other churches shout, but the Dunkers weep."

"Feeling" and religious experience is not new among Christian believers, including the Brethren. Its manifestation, however, has tended to be meek and mild. As in the time of Christ, His followers today should not be of a generation seeking a sign. Anyone seeking the Spirit of God should beware of the alleged divinely inspired signs, for Satan also (or perhaps only) will work wonders before men. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." II Cor. 11:14, 15.

The expression of emotion varies from individual to individual. While to some the feelings of the heart are near the surface and easily become evident, to others emotional control has become a part of their personality from childhood. We find no fault with either. We feel, however, that the expression of emotion may or may not be consistent with the Christ-like life. It is recorded that Jesus wept on at least two occasions. There were other times when He was deeply moved, but we know of no place recorded where He made a great show of shouting, or even of speaking in tongues. The meek and quiet spirit is with Him of great price. As the hymn writer said, "To Him there's music in a groan, and beauty in a tear."

To those who are aware of the influence of the charismatic movement, let us simply say that we see great danger in it. Do not be led away by this form of spirit. There is a place for religious feeling, as there has been through the centuries. There is no reason why suddenly in this latter day a new manifestation should become evident. We feel, rather, that a search of the Scriptures will show the tenor of both the Old and New Testaments to support the observation that "...the Dunkers weep."

Selected from the Vindicator by
Brother George H. Longenecker



The world doesn't read the Bible much, but it does read the lives of Christians.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE CUNNING GIBEONITES

JOSHUA 9

The people of a city called Gibeon were smarter than most of the inhabitants of Canaan land. They used their heads. After Joshua destroyed Jericho and Ai, different kings of the country gathered to fight against Israel, but not the Gibeonites. They decided that they wanted to make peace with Joshua. They knew that Joshua was going to take the land of Canaan and destroy every city that he came to. They also knew that Joshua and the army of Israel were getting too close to Gibeon to be comfortable. Joshua was a man that they could trust; if he made an agreement, he would keep it. So what did they do? Some of the men of Gibeon were sent to Joshua to act like they were ambassadors from a far country. They took old sacks and put them on their donkeys, they carried wine bottles that were old and torn and mended, and old patched up shoes, and old clothes, and bread that was mouldy and stale. When they came to Gilgal and stood before Joshua, they looked like they were just about done for. They spoke to Joshua and Israel and said, "We come from a far country and we want to make an agreement with you."

The men of Israel answered, "What if you live among us? How shall we make an agreement with you?"

And the men of Gibeon said to Joshua, "We are your servants and we come from a far country. Because we have heard of the name of the Lord thy God; for we know the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, and to Sihon, king of Heshbon, and to Og, king of Bashan." (They didn't mention Jericho and Ai because those victories were too recent for anyone very far away to have heard about it.) "And because of this our elders said for us to take food for this long journey and tell you that we will be your servants. Look at this bread; When we started out it was still hot but now it is dry and mouldy, these bottles of wine were new but now they are scratched and torn, and our clothes and our shoes have become old and worn because of the long time we have traveled."

The men of Israel were so convinced that they forgot to ask counsel of the Lord. And Joshua made peace with them and agreed to let them live and the princes of Israel swore unto them by the Lord God of Israel that they would be friends. Three days later they found that these men were Gibeonites and lived right among them. But the children of Israel kept their promise and did them no harm.

Joshua called to the men of Gibeon and said, "Why have you tricked us and told us you were from a far country, when you lived among us?"

And they replied, "We were told that your God commanded you to destroy the inhabitants of this land and we were afraid for our lives. Now we are in your hand; do with us what seems good to you."

Joshua made them hewers of wood and drawers of water but spared their lives.

We can't help but admire these Gibeonites. They feared for their lives and knew that the God of Israel had commanded Joshua to destroy the inhabitants of the land. They also knew that once Joshua and Israel had made a promise that they would keep it. We don't have to deceive anyone for fear of our lives but we can be sure that God will keep His promises to us.

Brother Rudy Cover

A PLEDGE

A pledge is a promise.

We pledge our love and loyalty to each other in our marriage vows. Read Gen. 2:24, Mark 10:9. We pledge our loyalty to Christ and the Church before baptism. Read Acts 8:26-40. We pledge our faithfulness in an agreement when buying personal property: to pay our obligations. A Physician makes a pledge upon graduation to administer medications for the healing of the body.

Some Nursing Schools ask their graduates to accept "The Florence Nightingale Pledge". I have in my possession a copy of this "Pledge". In behalf of our young people I will quote the following.

"I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity, and to practice my Profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

"I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my Profession, and will keep in confidence all personal matters coming to my knowledge and all family affairs committed to my keeping in the practice of my Profession.

"With loyalty, will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

This is a very solemn and impressive service. May we all evaluate the truth of each statement and with a proper commitment to Christ and the Church, act accordingly in all our deportment so we can be a good citizen, neighbor and friend.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
5290 W. State Rt. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

May I please have your reports, queries and any other items of business for General Conference, no later than April 15th, so they might be included in the business program.

My address: R. 3, Adel, Iowa 50003.

Joseph E. Flora
Writing Clerk

CORRECTION

In the February 1st issue, the Goshen, Indiana Congregation was listed as having a set date for Lovefeast. This is in error. The Editor is sorry for any inconvenience caused by this error.

CORRECTION

The address of Bro. John Pepper should appear in the Ministerial List as: R. 8, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to have their Revival Meetings from March 13 through March 27. Bro. Edward Johnson is our evangelist.

They will close with a Lovefeast, March 26 and 27. Services on Saturday the 26th, will begin at 11 o'clock, services again at 2 o'clock and the Lovefeast proper, Saturday evening. Services on Sunday.

Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinhenn, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will hold services April 6 through 10. The meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday night. Elder Melvin Roesch of West Unity, Ohio, will be the speaker.

On Saturday, April 9, there will be services at 2:00 p.m. with our Lovefeast at 7:00 that evening.

We extend a cordial invitation to all who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Since this is the year for the District Meeting to be here, our Lovefeast will be April 9-10 with the business meeting on Monday. We welcome all who can, to be with us.

Today, we experienced a happy occasion. A young brother decided to give up the pleasures of sin and to accept Jesus as his Saviour. He was baptized this afternoon and went on his way rejoicing.

May we pray constantly that our young folks will be able to defeat the devil.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL

Apr. 3 - Having the Mind of Christ. Phil. 2:1-30.

Apr. 10 - THE RESURRECTION - John 20:1-31.

Apr. 17 - "That I May Win Christ". Phil. 3:1-21.

Apr. 24 - Doing All Things through Christ. Phil. 4:1-23.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How can we have the mind of Christ? Phil. 2:5; I Pet. 2:21.
- (2) Where did Jesus go after he talked with Mary Magdalene? John 20:17.
- (3) How were the disciples affected when they saw the Lord after His resurrection? John 20:20.
- (4) What did Jesus say that affects us because Thomas did not believe Jesus had risen until he had seen Him? John 20:29.
- (5) What kind of righteousness did Paul want? Phil. 3:9.
- (6) How can we obtain the peace of God? Phil. 4:6-7.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL 1977

Consider

Memory Verse Ex. 33:13. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Fri. 1 - Ex. 33:1-23

Sat. 2 - Deut. 4:25-49

Memory Verse Deut. 4:39. Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Sun. 3 - Luke 19:29-48

Mon. 4 - Deut. 8:1-20

Tues. 5 - Deut. 32:1-25

Wed. 6 - Deut. 32:26-52

Thur. 7 - I Sam. 12:1-25

Fri. 8 - I Kings 5:1-18

Sat. 9 - 2 Kings 5:1-27

Memory Verse Deut. 8:5. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.

Sun. 10 - Math. 28:1-20

Mon. 11 - Job 1:1-22

Tues. 12 - Job 2:1-13

Wed. 13 - Job 11:1-20

Thur. 14 - Job 23:1-17

Fri. 15 - Job 34:1-37

Sat. 16 - Job 37:1-24

Memory Verse I Sam. 12:24. Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Sun. 17 - Psalms 5:1-12

Mon. 18 - Psalms 8:1-9

Tues. 19 - Psalms 9:1-20

Wed. 20 - Psalms 13:1-6

Thur. 21 - Psalms 25:1-22

Fri. 22 - Psalms 31:1-24

Sat. 23 - Psalms 33:1-22

Memory Verse Job 37:14. Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

Sun. 24 - Psalms 37:1-20

Mon. 25 - Psalms 37:21-40

Tues. 26 - Psalms 41:1-13

Wed. 27 - Psalms 45:1-17

Thur. 28 - Psalms 48:1-14

Fri. 29 - Psalms 50:1-23

Sat. 30 - Psalms 64:1-10

Memory Verse Psalms 37:10. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Psalms 41:1. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

APRIL 1, 1977

No. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CHRIST AROSE

What has the empty sepulchre
To say to thee and me?
It tells us the Savior's death
Has set His people free;
He died, our sins upon Him laid;
He rose, because the debt was paid.

O shout ye sons of heavenly light,
The Lord is risen indeed!
He fills the Fathers heart with joy,
And meets our every need;
Captain of our salvation He,
Upon whose head the crown we see.

Beside an empty sepulchre
We stand, and adore;
And now we haste with joy to spread
The news from shore to shore;
And sinners who that news believe
His resurrection power receive.

-Author Unknown

BETWEEN TWO THIEVES

Pilate had made his decision. Jesus would be crucified. Barabbas would be released. Was it only a coincidence that these two prisoners were so opposite of each other? The one had spent His life doing good, healing the sick and restoring the afflicted. The other had spent his life doing evil, robbing his fellowmen and even killing some. Two men so different yet the One would take the other's place on the middle cross of Calvary.

Barabbas was released but two of his gang were going to face the punishment demanded by their crimes: crucifixion. Instead of their leader being nailed to the cross in the center, Jesus would be. He who had done good was taking the place of the one who had done only evil. But He was not only taking Barabbas' place He was taking the place of each man, woman and child. He was taking the place of sinners. All men are related to Barabbas in the same way all are related to Adam.

Three condemned men were led up to Calvary to be crucified. Two deserved their punishment, the other was not guilty of any crime for He had lived a perfect life. His life was without spot or blemish. Yet He would die between the thieves as if He were the chief of sinners. He would become the chief of sinners in God's sight as he bore mankind's burden of sin. Great darkness fell over this scene to show the darkness of sin. "The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:5. The light that was apparently snuffed out on Calvary became even brighter on that first Easter morning. All the forces that had combined to darken not

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York; Pa. 17403

only the physical scene but also the hearts of men could not extinguish that Light.

Victory was the theme that first Easter. What had appeared to be defeat was now the greatest victory ever known. It was not only the return of life to the earthly frame of Jesus but it was the great victory over the forces of evil. Death had been unable to hold Him, the grave had proven powerless and best of all, Hell had now been conquered. All together they could not accomplish that which had looked so easy at Calvary. When He was between those thieves He was making victory possible for everyone by being the symbol of all that was evil. His sacrifice was the only one acceptable in God's sight. Only a perfect, unblemished sacrifice could atone for all the varied sins of mankind.

His trip up Calvary was not the result of circumstances. It was the result of God's love for you and me. God's Grace and Mercy toward mankind compelled Him to send His only begotten Son to earth in the first place. He could see the ruin man had made of his life and the impossibility of him ever righting himself by his own design. God in His Grace gave the only remedy that would work. Money, position and culture are like "quacks" they cannot rescue man from his sinful condition, only the Gift of God will suffice.

The crucifixion of Jesus between the two thieves also shows the reactions of the world to His Person and Work. Each of the thieves was guilty and each deserved his punishment. The whole world lies guilty and condemned before God. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. Whether the Perfect Sacrifice given by God's Grace avails in our lives or not depends on our reactions to Him.

The one malefactor (evil doer) railed on Him, mocking Him along with the crowd who was watching. His reaction was to continue in his same style of life even in its closing hours. To him the One crucified between him and his fellow thief was but the chief of sinners. There was nothing of belief or repentance in this man's dying hours. He is the picture of the majority in the world today, hellbound, unrepentant and uncaring about their souls.

The other thief was just as guilty as the first and just as deserving of his punishment but he recognized his need and the solution. He recognized Jesus as more than another sinner condemned to a cruel death. He recognized his own sinful condition and appealed to Jesus as Lord to remember him. This, Jesus was willing to do for him and for all who will come to Him in the same heartfelt way. The thief was willing to do all necessary and possible to be rescued

Spiritually. He is a picture of that remnant of mankind who have chosen to follow the Lamb of God.

One of these thieves is a picture of you. Are you indifferent, uncaring, unrepentant like the first? Or are you willing to do all necessary to take advantage of God's Gift of Grace?

GOD REALLY LOVES

In the Bible, John 3:16 tells us that God loves the world. Questions arise as to why, then, is there so much trouble? Why so many disasters, in which so many people lose their lives? Why does God allow bitterness and hatred between nations?

I find in I John 4:8, "God is love." He created man, put him on this planet and gave him something He did not give His other creatures: freedom of choice.

He manifested His love when He created Paradise for man and placed him therein. He told man, "You can enjoy all the fruit of this garden, except for one tree." Of the Garden, He told man, "Dress and keep it." "If you eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree, you will suffer and die."

Adam rebelled deliberately against God. This is where all our trouble began, in the Garden of Paradise. Man became alienated and separated from God. Man sinned. The Bible speaks of a physical death; every cemetery testifies to the fact of Hebrews 9:27, "...It is appointed unto men once to die..."

Another death is called a Spiritual Death. "...the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23. Living inside our bodies is the soul, which according to Genesis 2:7, "God...breathed into his nostrils (man's) the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Only God can satisfy the soul. We can make money, can reach the pinnacle of popularity, can reach for pleasure and beauty. None of these fulfill our lives. With these we may remain Spiritually dead.

God saw man's predicament. In spite of man's sin and rebellion, God loved the world. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5. In other words, in order that He might communicate His love to us, God took the form of His Son, Jesus Christ, who was born of a virgin, walked among us, and showed us what the Father is like.

He, Jesus, made the blind to see, the dumb to talk, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear and the dead to rise. He fed the hungry thousands. He thought it well to be equal with God - the love of God.

He came for another purpose: to die on the cross. He said, "To this end I was born." He died for the sins of the whole world. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us. Jesus became the sin-bearer, the substitute, the one who died in our place.

God said to the whole world, "I love you." He proved His love by giving His only begotten Son. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins because "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Put your name there in place of the word "Whosoever". This is one of Peter's exceeding great and precious promises." II Peter 1:4.

Brother Ray S. Shank
241B Gettysburg St.
Dillsburg, Pa. 17019

THAT MAN DANIEL

The Book of Daniel is a tremendous book. Daniel himself was a tremendous man who served God and loved his fellowmen. Daniel can be a tremendous example to Christian people today. God's people in Judea, Israel, had so polluted themselves in disobedience to God that their cup of iniquity had become so full that God could not tolerate them any longer. He gave them over to captivity under the wicked king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Babylon was a very wicked nation which neither served nor recognized the God of Heaven, but served the heathen sun-gods of Baal, the lust of the flesh, the carnal mind and even tried to deify their kings as gods, whom they worshipped.

This was the setting into which Daniel and his companions were thrust as captive young men. There had been a long siege against Jerusalem and much slaughter in Judea. Only the best of the Israelites were carried the one thousand miles to Babylon to do service for the king.

I picture Daniel as a lad of perhaps seventeen years, strong, healthy, handsome, wise, well-favored, skillful, learned, obedient to parents and God, unafraid because he trusted in God, and unmovable in his faith. Daniel 1:3-4 would indicate that Daniel was of royal seed in Judea.

I also picture Daniel's mother as being a godly woman who trusted God and looked well to her household spiritually and physically. Fathers, Mothers, it is time to look well to your household. What is your example? Are you holding up the God of

Heaven day by day by the things you do? by the things you find pleasure in? by the company you keep? Remember these little ones are walking in your footsteps. You are their mirror and your example will be magnified in their lives - over and over. When we plant a seed, it does not bring forth one seed as planted but many like seeds. What will your harvests be according to the seed you plant? You cannot reap figs of thistles.

Daniel had outstanding training and that training stuck. When Daniel was told to eat the king's dainties, he knew he could not eat them and be a strong healthy man and serve God to the fullest of his potential. He knew what he ought to do and he told the prince of the eunuchs that he could not eat the king's dainties and suggested a thoughtful plan by which they could prove to the king that this was best for them. It worked two ways - their bodies were healthier, their faces more handsome, and the Lord was with them. Soft drinks, ice cream, cake, pie, meats were not in Daniel's menu. He was also a man of fasting. In his late eighties he was appointed the second ruler of Babylon (Dan. 2:48), that mighty nation which was not a kingdom of the world, but the kingdom of the world, for Babylon ruled the world at that time. In order for Daniel to have been eligible to occupy so high a position he had to be an outstanding example of leadership, physically strong, and mentally alert. A Psalm of Moses (Psa. 90:10) declared that man's days were appointed as threescore years and ten, therefore Daniel was a man of long life. Apparently there is no record of his death, neither of his returning to his homeland.

I am awed when I think of a captive boy who stuck to his convictions and dared do right even though uprooted from his family, his home and country, then transplanted into a heathen land among heathen people, and heathen worship, then rising to the prominence of second ruler in that new country. Oh, no it did not come easy. It took many years of service before God and man. He stood before the king as interpreter under sentence of death. It took him through the lions den. He was ridiculed, and harassed, and his jealous enemies vied with him for his job. But Daniel knew the Lord and knew he was known of Him.

When the decree went out to worship none but the king as god, Daniel still continued to bow in front of his open window facing Jerusalem three times daily. If Daniel would have had a wife, I believe she might have said something like this, "Daniel if you are going to pray, why do you pray in front of that open window? Why not go where you cannot be seen? Why bring all this trouble upon us?" But Daniel wanted to witness. He was faithful in serving God and he had been instructed to pray toward the temple in Jerusalem.

The Lord recognizes every obedience and takes care of His people accordingly. Is the reward worth striving for? "And the Lord was with him," is a wonderful phrase when applied to any individual. But in order to have the Lord with us, we must obey Him.

If Daniel had fallen victim to lusts of the flesh, he probably would have fallen with the slain in Judea and never would have found a new home in Babylon. He would never have interpreted the king's dreams; he would never have witnessed to Babylon and the world through the ages; he never would have turned the course of pagan worship to the worship of God in Babylon (read Dan. 2:47-48 and 6:25-28); the Book of Daniel would not have been written.

If we follow the lust of the flesh we, too, will be weak physically, mentally and spiritually. We would follow with and mingle with the crowd and go on our way to defeat and oblivion.

Wake up! The hour is late, very late. Judgment is soon coming and already is in operation in the world.

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose true,
Dare to make it known.

May the Lord be our constant shield, buckler, fortress, high tower, guide and protector daily.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
R. 2, Box 129, Oakland, Md. 21550

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

In Luke 17:32 we read, "Remember Lot's wife." This should stir us up when we think of her. We know how two angels came to Sodom and Lot took them into his house. Genesis 19:12 says, "And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place." In the next verse they told him they were going to destroy this place. We find that Lot went to his sons-in-law and told them to get out of the city because it was going to be destroyed, but they just mocked.

Then in the morning, the angels told Lot to take his wife and his two daughters who were at home yet and get out of the city. The angels told them not to look behind or to stay on the plain, but to escape unto the mountain. But what happened? Lot's wife looked back into that wicked city.

In Luke 9:62 we read, "And Jesus said unto him, 'No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'" After we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we

must not look back and desire to again be in bondage. We also know how the children of Israel longed to be back in Egypt because of the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic. (Num. 11:5)

It's certainly possible for us after we come to the Church to drag worldly desires along with us. But Paul said that the things he once loved now he hated. So we should truly repent of these things and leave them behind and press onward and upward. Dragging these things along not only slows our progress, but also the Church's. If we at one time loved to go to the shindigs, bowling alleys, dance halls, roller rinks, or whatever else it might have been that's worldly, we now should hate that. And we surely should not look back and think we were better off then, than now. That's sin.

We find that the Word says that salt is good, but if it loses its savour it's good for nothing. Yes, Lot's wife sure was a pillar of salt but it wasn't salty. Are we pillars of salt like Lot's wife? Or are we pillars holding up the blood-stained banner of Immanuel? We should be salty enough to share the salt with the world -- not to let the world rub off on us. This can easily happen and it does too often. "If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him." I John 2:15b.

This was said of a man who was greatly impressed by a sincere Christian lady and her consistent life of testimony and sacrifice. It seemed especially outstanding to him because it contrasted so sharply with his own existence, so taken up by worldly things. "I would give the world to have your experience," he said. "Ah," replied the precious saint of God, "that is just what it cost me. I gave the world for it." Galatians 6:14 reads, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Have we crucified the flesh with its affections, or are we looking back with longing to the lusts and worldly pleasures from which we should have been delivered? Remember Lot's wife!

In Christian love,
Brother Ray Stuber
938 May Rd., Lititz, Pa. 17543

LOOK AND LIVE

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth

in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14-15. Jesus was lifted up on a Cross and He gave His life for us there, the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins. Jesus paid the price so we can have life, if we will look to Him.

Jesus came to this world to make salvation available to us and also to give us victory over sin. He died, was buried and rose again; He is not still hanging on a cross and suffering for our sins, as a crucifix pictures Him. The tomb where He was buried is empty, not because someone stole His body, but because He rose again. As the children of Israel looked up to the brazen serpent, so must we look to Christ and believe if we want to really live.

The children of Israel were dying because of the bite of the fiery serpents (Num. 21:6-9). The people came to Moses asking for help and admitting their sin. The Lord told Moses to make a serpent of brass, put it on a pole, and anyone who was bitten was to look up to it and he would live. In order to receive life, they had to take their eyes off themselves, off the serpents, and look to the source of life. So it is with us. Christ is our life, our strength, our victory over sin; we must take our eyes off everything else in order to really see Him and what He can do for us.

When Peter saw Jesus walking on the water, he asked Jesus to bid him to do the same if He really was Jesus. Jesus said "Come," and Peter stepped down out of the ship and started walking on the water. Peter became afraid, when he saw how strong the wind was, and began to sink. He doubted and failed when he looked away from Jesus, for he saw the strength of the storm rather than the strength of Christ, who was in control of the storm. Victory over every situation comes through Christ; we fail when we concentrate on the danger. (See I John 5:4-5)

Take your eyes off of self, your problems, your sickness, financial worries, and look to Jesus. When you stress how bad you feel, how poor you are, or how hopeless your problems are, that situation has the victory over you. Satan loves to discourage you and to keep you from trusting Christ for the solution. Through Christ, the power of these things to drag you down and make you miserable can be broken. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4.

We have a promise that all our needs will be supplied somehow. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. We might have a "thorn in the flesh" as Paul had, a problem which won't go away; it just keeps hurting. Even so, we are not left to suffer alone. Jesus said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Jesus gave Paul strength so he

could live with his thorn and He will do the same for us.

Sometimes we see people facing tragic situations and we wonder how they can do it. We may think we couldn't, but in Jesus, we could, for with God, all things are possible. Jesus is our strength; He knows we can't cope with problems alone and He doesn't expect us to. He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10). The grace He gives in times of trial is part of this abundant life. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." II Cor. 9:8. Satan desires to destroy us, or if he can't, he seeks to discourage us, but we can have the victory through our Lord.

When someone has gone through a time of severe suffering, that person has a new strength, a greater confidence in God and a better understanding of God's ways. Along with the suffering comes an infilling of compassion for others. Why? Because when suffering came, he or she looked to Jesus and found strength. After the suffering comes a desire to help others find what we have received. There is a new joy in living, in serving, and knowing that God is real and He cares. There is joy in knowing God will help us immeasurably, especially when we cannot help ourselves. Because of Him, we live.

The disciples rejoiced whenever they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ. They had looked to Jesus, and had learned to live in Him. Look to Jesus for joy, whether you are suffering or all is well. If you can be happy inside even when things outside aren't so good, it brings glory to God. It shows that you have looked to Jesus and are now living in Him.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25. There is no life outside of Christ; there is only emptiness and sin which brings death. Jesus gave all that He had for you; won't you look to Him now and begin to really live?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



Grind while the wind blows, or if not, do not blame Providence. God sends every bird its food but he does not throw it into the nest.

—Spurgeon

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE SUN STOOD STILL!

JOSHUA 10:1-14

The people of Gibeon had made an agreement with Joshua and Israel. Adonizedec, king of Jerusalem at that time, heard how Israel had utterly destroyed Ai. Gibeon was a greater city than Ai and the men of Gibeon were mighty men. The king of Jerusalem greatly feared and sent to four other kings of the Amorites to unite with him to destroy Gibeon. And the five kings and their armies camped around Gibeon and made war against it.

It wasn't easy to destroy a well defended city in those days. It took time to break down the walls so that they could enter the city. They didn't have guns and bombs but only spears and swords and bows and arrows. But even at that, five great armies of soldiers could destroy Gibeon.

The men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua and said, "Come up quickly and save us and help us for all the kings of the Amorites are gathered together against us." Joshua got the army of Israel ready for war and the Lord said, "Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand."

Joshua and the army of Israel traveled all night and came upon the five kings and their armies suddenly. As their armies fled before Israel the Lord caused great stones to fall from the sky and more of the enemy died from the hail-stones than were slain of Israel by the sword.

While they were fighting, Joshua could see that it would be dark before Israel could destroy the enemy. Guess what happened. He called to God that the sun and the moon would stand still till they could finish the battle. The sun did stand still and the moon didn't go down for about a whole day. There was no day like it before or after, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man in this way. And the Lord fought for Israel and delivered the Amorites into their hand.

Joshua and the children of Israel promised to let the Gibeonites live. Because of this, God protected them and fought for them. The Gibeonites trusted a just and merciful God and it pleased God to care for them. If we will trust the Lord, He will care for us too. "O, Lord my God; how great Thou art!"

Brother Rudy Cover

EASTER

As we sit and ponder on the word, "Easter", we find very few references to study. It is mentioned only once in the Word of God. That is in Acts 12:4, telling of the time when Peter was to be released from prison.

Webster defines it as: "A church feast observed on a Sunday in March or April, in commemoration of Christ's resurrection." We also find through some research that in early English versions of the Bible, the word "Easter", was used as the translation of the word "passover", but in the Authorized Version it was only used the one time mentioned above.

How do we translate it into our lives as a Christian people? Does it have more significance than Christmas? To me it does, and I hope it does for you also. Without it, we could not have the hope of eternal life.

History shows us Easter is connected with the Resurrection of our Saviour. We ask, how can the Passover be a part of the Resurrection? Praise God's holy name, that He brought Jesus forth from the grave that we might have salvation. With this thought in mind, let us draw a little closer to our Saviour, for giving us an Easter day.

When we think of Passover, most of us think of the deliverance of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt. Passover was instituted by God for the deliverance of the children of Israel. They were to hold a feast in commemoration of this day every year. When the Passover was brought into being, it contained the shedding of blood. Then the blood had to be placed on the door posts so the death angel would pass over. In the yearly commemoration of this time of passover the children of Israel picked a male lamb, without blemish, for offering, and the meal of the feast that they were to partake of, as a memorial.

Are we Christian people partakers of the Passover? Do we hold a memorial to God, for the Lamb, He gave for the atonement of our sins? The blood of the lambs that was shed for Israel's deliverance was as nothing compared to the blood that was shed for us on Calvary.

God delivered the children of Israel out of bondage or slavery with the first Passover, or shall we call it Easter. Our Easter is a passover for us, in that it tells of our deliverance from sin. It is the passing over of the doom we deserve for our sin. As the death angel passed over when he saw the blood on the doors, our sins will be forgiven when the blood of the Lamb is applied to our hearts.

This passover is useless, until it is partaken of. The Israelites ate

their passover feast standing, ready for a journey. Our passover meal should be the Word of God and we should be prepared for a journey, as we partake of this feast. The Israelites ate their Passover with bitter herbs, and wine. Our passover must be eaten with repentance as our bitter herbs.

History shows the Lamb of God was slain at nearly the same season of the year and at the same time of day, that were used in the Passover of the children of Israel, starting at the same time in the morning and stopping at the same time in the evening.

We are very fortunate indeed to have a God who wanted man to look to Him for forgiveness of sin, so He offered the Supreme Sacrifice for us. Not on the altar did they lay the sacrifice, but they hung it on a cross between Heaven and earth. They did this to shame our Saviour, but we as Christian people know, it was not shame for the Saviour, it was shame for the human race. To overcome this shame, let us keep the passover or Easter feast to glorify our Saviour, Jesus. To honor and acknowledge Him as that Supreme Sacrifice offered for us.

Praise God that he did come forth from the grave, so we might have salvation. May the Grace of God go with all that partake of this passover. May God richly bless all and keep you faithful is my prayer.

In Christian Love,
Brother Orvis Smith

OBITUARIES

HARRY SCHARNWEBER

Bro. Harry C. Scharnweber, aged 78 years, passed away September 22, 1976 at the Hughes Nursing Home in Fredricksburg, Virginia. He was a native of New York State. About twelve years ago he moved to Mineral, Virginia. His wife preceded him in death five years ago. He leaves no near relatives.

He was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren faith in 1970. He was an ardent Bible student, strong in the Christian faith. None knew him but to love him. He was laid to rest, beside his wife in the Baptist Church Cemetery in Mineral, Virginia. Graveside services were conducted by Pastor Carl Stutz and Bro. L. A. Shumake.

ETTA CLINE

Etta May Cline, 90, Rt. 1, Amboy, Indiana, died Wednesday, February 23, 1977, at the Pleasant View Nursing Home, Wabash, Indiana, after a five week illness.

Born in Howard County, Indiana, September 22, 1886, she was

the daughter of Nathaniel and Martha (Gerhart) Kendall.

She was married to Harve Cline in January, 1906. He died in 1965. She lived her entire life in the Amboy area.

Surviving are one daughter, Reverdia Wolf, Amboy; two brothers, Russel Kendall, Greentown, and Marvin Kendall, Claypool; two sisters, Eva Willits, Kokomo and Sylvia Parker, Troy, Ohio; seven grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; two step-great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. One daughter is deceased.

Sister Cline was a faithful member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church, until death took her Home.

Funeral services were conducted at the Plevna Church on Saturday February 26, 1977 by Elder Harley Rush, assisted by Bro. Robert Carpenter.

Burial was the Kendall Cemetery three miles north of Plevna.

"Like Muffled Drums"

"Art is long, and time is fleeting,
and our hearts, though stout
and brave,

Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave!"

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

NEWS ITEM

CORRECTION

The first two sentences of the Editorial in the March 1st issue should read, "There are many choices placed before each individual each day. The choice he makes will affect not only his life that day but also throughout his life and even his life beyond this earthly life."

NOTICE

The Editor would like to thank the Correspondents and Agents across the Brotherhood for their efforts in sending in renewals and new subscriptions. The individual subscriptions sent in are much appreciated. It takes all of these subscriptions to get the Bible Monitor out to as many homes as possible.

Since the file of original material has been quite low the past few months, the recent influx of original articles is gratifying. It is everyone's wish to have the Monitor filled with articles from our readers.

The good selected articles sent in are also appreciated.

Remember when sending in selected material to give proper credit to the author and publication where it originally appeared. If the material is copyrighted we cannot use it without securing permission. If the selected material runs over three or four typewritten pages it is unlikely that a space will be found for it in the Bible Monitor.

Thank you for your continued support and help and especially for your prayers.

COURAGE

Courage isn't a brilliant dash,
A daring deed in a moment's flash;
It isn't an instantaneous thing
Born of despair with a sudden spring.
It isn't a creature of flickering hope,
Or the final tug at a slipping rope,
But it's something deep in the soul of man
That is working always to serve some plan.
Courage isn't the last resort
In the work of life or the game of sport;
It isn't a thing that a man can call
At some future time when he's apt to fall.
If he hasn't it now, he will have it not
When the strain is great and the pace is hot.
For who would strive for a distant goal
Must always have courage within his soul.
Courage isn't a dazzling light
That flashes and passes away from sight;
It's a slow, unwavering, ingrained trait
That has the patience to work and wait.
It's part of a man when his skies are blue,
It's part of him when he has work to do.
The brave man is never freed of it;
He has it when there's no need of it.
Courage was never designed for show,
It isn't a thing that can come and go.
It's written on victory and defeat
And every trial a man may meet.
It's part of his hours, his days and years.
Back of his smiles and behind his tears.
Courage is more than a daring deed,
It's the breath of life and a strong man's creed.

-by Edgar A. Guest
Selected by Sister Ada Whitman

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Paul R. Myers
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

APRIL 15, 1977

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MAKING FRIENDS

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered
And nobody helped us along,
If every man looked after himself
And good things all went to the strong;
If nobody cared just a little for you
And nobody thought about me,
And we all stood alone in the battle of life,
What a dreary old world it would be.
Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made
And the things which in common we share,
We want to live on, not because of ourselves,
But because of the people who care.
It's giving and doing for somebody else -
On that all life's splendor depends;
And the joys of the world, when you have summed it all up,
Is found in the making of friends.

-Author unknown

EVANGELISM

The Church has been given a Great Commission by Her Resurrected Saviour. She has been instructed, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19-20. He has sent His Church forth on the great mission of love that God began by the sacrifice of His own Dear Son.

These words from the lips of Jesus should seem doubly important to us since they were spoken following His Resurrection. He spoke as the One who possesses all power in Heaven and earth. If He holds such power certainly it includes the power to direct His Bride in the work He wishes for Her to accomplish. These are not the words of mere man. These are the words of God. These are not the words of one who has failed but of the One who has wrought a great victory over Death, Hell and the Grave. Who could better give directions to the Church so men could also have this victory? The Church must give serious heed to His Words.

The words, "Go ye", ring through the centuries. The going may be next door or it may be half-way around the world. The Great Commission is not for the "rocking chair" Christian but for the one who is going ahead, not just back and forth. The purpose in the going is to take the Gospel to the lost. Jesus does not leave this important work to be done by men without some guidelines. If His Commands are not carried out, if His restrictions are not adhered to, then the work done will not be His Work but man's work.

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Jesus tells us to take the Precious Seed which is to be sown in the hearts of men. The lost must see their true condition and apply for the New Testament remedy of their condition and have their wills stirred to desire it. Jesus speaks first of the teaching of the plan of salvation; after it is accepted by faith and accompanied by repentance, He speaks of the necessity of Baptism. He gives man an opportunity to share God's Grace but man must be willing to follow even in the smallest details. Here, Jesus gives the details of baptism. It is trine immersion with each dip accompanied by a name of one of the three-fold Godhead - Father, Son and Spirit. Jesus does not conclude His instructions here at water's edge but further emphasizes the need of continued teaching and obedience. While it may seem to man to be too detailed and too strict, it remains the only way that man can have a part in the promise, Jesus concludes with, "...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

These are the commands Jesus has given His Church for evangelizing but like in all other things man has come along with his own ideas on how to do it. Contest, games and entertainments have been staged to get people to attend Church. The people attend just like they will attend any sports or entertainment event and in the end it will mean just as much to them. Suppers and socials have long been used as allurements but their effect is to only fill the body not the soul. The most dangerous and most popular of allurements is a "watered-down" Gospel and the letting down of discipline within the Church. To preach anything less than the New Testament plan of salvation is to offer a false hope to the lost. They will be just as lost as if they had made no effort to right themselves. "...To observe all things" is required by Jesus in the commission He has delivered to His Church. To require less is to put souls in danger of being beckoned away.

Evangelism gets its greatest power from Christians living real Christian lives. When Christians are totally dedicated, their lives become the greatest draw for the lost to come to Christ. It is a life that keeps the commands of God and the practices of the Church because they are Spirit-directed. If Christians would live up to their profession and would unashamedly stand by the requirements of the New Testament there would not be any need for contests, games, suppers or other entertainments to lure people to Church. The best lure is a Christian life.

We are sent out by Jesus. He has given us work to do and our instructions for doing it. Let us be careful that we follow His Program, not one of man's schemes. No matter how sincerely we work at man's program for evangelism in the end it will be in vain.

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

JOHN 3:1-8

A Sermon by Elder Ora Skiles

Verse 7, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Before Jimmy Carter was elected President, the Minister in his home church at Plains, Georgia told his congregation, "All of you go out and vote for Jimmy. He's a born again Christian." Now I am not sure this is a major qualification for President. Surely it should be, but a man from skid-row can be a born again and be a good man. But would he make a good President? As important and great the experience of being delivered from sin is, I love to see evidence. I could wish that all our Congressmen, Governors and others in public office were born again Christians. What a blessing that would be to our country.

John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, had a wicked woman tell him that she had never heard any one use such vile language as he'd used. It shocked him, coming from such an ungodly woman. He tried to reform himself but had no success. He tried again and made some progress and, like the Pharisee, began to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. He thought God must be as pleased with him as with any man in England. One day he heard some women talking about how happy they were since being delivered from the old life by the new birth and what a joy it was to them to have Christ in their lives and the new outlook of being in the Family of God. And he knew he was wrong again.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." This is one of the absolutes in the Bible. It is a positive statement.

Who Needs it? Everybody.

Nicodemus believed. He came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I saw unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:2-3. Now, Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, a good man. He was a Pharisee and no doubt conformed to all the rules of the Law. But he could not understand. When Jesus told him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said, "How can these things be?" "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2:14.

What is the New Birth?

It is hard to put into words. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8.

It is a new creation of God by the Holy Spirit. A new spiritual life from above implanted in us through the means of Grace, especially by the teaching and preaching of the Gospel. "He (Jesus) came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:11-13.

Why do we need it?

Because of the disobedience of one man (Adam), all are under sin and hell-bound. We are in the flesh, wanting our own way. SIN — The big "I" wanting my own way, but when we are born again we are a new creation in Christ Jesus, created unto good works. I am convinced that those not born the second time will wish they had never been born the first time.

How do we get it?

Repentance towards God and Faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ is needed. "...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. Repentance: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38.

What are the effects of it?

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you... By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if he have love one to another." John 13:34-35. He also said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

What kind of fruit?

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23.

Do we have it?

I cannot answer that question for you and you cannot answer it for me. But we can know. "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God

is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, ... even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." I John 5:19-20. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:13.

Sister Edyth Kline

THE BOOK FOR MODERN MAN

In the world of literature, the Bible stands unique and supreme. It is the world's treasure of poetry, inspiration, justice, morality and divine revelation. It supplies not only the name of our ancestors, but the precepts by which they lived. It was a "lamp to their feet, and a light to their path."

Man is reminded of his individual responsibility, his own dignity and his equality with his fellowman. Its message is adapted alike to those of every nation, age, race and condition of life. It speaks alike to the ruler in his palace and to the pagan of the jungle.

To the little child it says, "...of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Matt. 19:14. To the young man and the young woman it says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." I John 2:15a. To declining years it brings joy: for "The hoary head is a crown of glory..." Proverbs 16:31. To millions of troubled hearts it speaks, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. As a telescope, it reveals that "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Psalms 19:1.

The Bible is an indestructible book. Its vitality is amazing. Many priceless histories and ancient literary treasures have wholly perished from the earth. The Word of God still endures, "...the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Pet. 1:23.

Not only is it indestructible, but it is indispensable. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Prov. 29:18. To mankind, tomorrow is an unknown venture; to God, it is an open book.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Pet. 1:21. A large portion of these are already fulfilled. No prophecy has miscarried or failed. They were "God breathed", for holy men of God spake.

I read that the sixty-six books, that comprise the Inspired Writings, were written at various times, through a period of fifteen centuries. These begin with a garden and end with a city. It breaks

silence with the words, "In the beginning God..." and closes with the benediction, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." Rev. 22:21. The entire story is wonderful in its revelation of Divine Love, wonderful in the salvation it offers, wonderful in its plan for human redemption, wonderful in its history of the past, and wonderful in its glorious assurance of a future eternal Homeland.

The Bible abounds in "exceeding great and precious promises," to the afflicted, the sick, the bereaved, the orphan, the outcast, the widow, the humble, the meek, the tempted, the obedient, those who lack wisdom and to all who sincerely pray for peace, pardon, cleansing, protection, deliverance, strength and guidance. These are all confirmed by the Apostle Paul, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." II Cor. 1:20.

Here is the only volume in the world that informs man of his origin; tells him why he is here; clearly specifies his duties and obligations, and envisions a glorious future for all who achieve a life of victory, in Christ. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Cor. 2:9. We read of dying men restored to health, of blind men given sight, of deaf ears opened, of lifelong cripples arising to run with the vigor of youth.

A prominent Bible scholar advised, "Read the Bible to be wise; believe it to be safe; and practice it to be holy. It should fill the memory, rule the head and direct the feet. It is bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, a lamp to the straying, a friend to sinners, and a sure guide to all."

Said Job, "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12. "I understand more than the ancients," observed King David, "because I keep thy precepts." Psalms 119:100. From the Saviour of the world comes this inspiring message, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39.

It was good for our forefathers; it was good for Daniel and it is good for modern man.

Brother Ray S. Shank

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO

God loves a cheerful giver, one who really wants to give. He wants us to worship Him because we want to. He desires that we obey Him, not because we'll be punished if we don't, but because we want to! We can do good works, we can live a respectable life, but nothing counts before God unless we do it because we want to please Him.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Giving all of yourself freely is the only service God accepts.

God expects obedience but only accepts that which comes from a willing heart, whether it be good works, praise, prayer or a song. "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb. 13:16. It is a personal responsibility to do good and to give freely of yourself. Such service truly pleases God. Someone who gives to the Lord's work, but does it grudgingly, or teaches halfheartedly, as if it's not worth the effort, is not giving acceptable service. We can put on a good front with our actions, but God knows our thoughts, and whether or not our hearts are in it. We need the desire to please Him in thought and action within us in order to serve acceptably.

What makes us want to serve God? What gives us a willing heart? It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. When Christ dwells within us, He gives us love for God, for others, and He gives us the desire and power to do God's will. Apart from Christ, we really won't want to please God; we would rather please ourselves. But when we love God, we want to please Him. The reason we love God is because He first loved us and wanted to save us. He provided salvation through Christ, the only One who can give us the desire to willingly serve God.

Jesus said, "...without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. You may want to serve Jesus, but you can't do it alone. Without Christ, you can't be truly obedient because even though you want to, you don't have the power. You may want to get rid of the sinful habits and desires in your life, but they will stick right there until Jesus breaks their power over you. Whatever you really want to do, you need Christ's strength to accomplish it. Even your "want to" comes from Him. If you leave Christ out, you've left everything out.

God promises blessings to those who seek to take the message of salvation and victory over sin to others. When we really want to serve, God will help us and accomplish alot through us if we will do things His way. We can turn people away from God by giving them our opinions about what's wrong, but if we do things God's way and give them love as He did us, they will be drawn to Him. Wanting only to point out their sin and prove how correct we are is wrong. Wanting them to have victory over sin is right. That requires Jesus within, for our faith in Him is the victory that overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4).

To get well physically, you must want to be well. To "get well" spiritually, you must want Christ, the only one Who can make you

well. Jesus said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" John 5:6. He was asking, "Do you really want to be well?" Most of us want to be physically well, and we will go to considerable trouble to achieve it. The man Jesus was speaking to had tried many times to get into the pool in time to be healed, but had always failed. Is your spiritual health worth as much effort? Certainly it is. If you want to come to Christ, He will help you and make you whole.

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:23. Jesus must know us or our works will not be acceptable, no matter how good they are. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7. This is a personal decision, a free-will service, and it is acceptable to God. "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." I John 3:22. God will bless us when we obey Him because our obedience pleases Him.

Personally decide now to receive Christ into your heart, because you want Him there. You must begin with Him and let Him know you. Whatever you give in service, do it willingly. Do it because you want to, not because you feel forced to. Seek to do that which pleases God and He will bless you, because He wants to!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

TO CHRISTIAN YOUNG MEN

"I have written to you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." I John 2:14b.

This appeal to young men places the future responsibility of leadership in the home and Church upon the Christian young man. When this is done, Christian women invariably are eager to follow with their necessary and loving ministries.

I John is thought to have been written about sixty years after the Church started in Jerusalem. John quite likely was the only one left of the Apostles. The Church and councils at Jerusalem had ceased. The aged Apostle chose his words with great care.

His addressing them as "little children" is quite touching. But here he shows great concern for the human fathers and for young men: mentioning each twice.

The Church now knew there would be an indefinite time of faithful

waiting and watching for the Lord's return. In each successive generation many strong young men would be needed.

Here we must look away from the present day's much-flaunted, strong men, popularized almost everywhere. John's "strong young men" were not the heroes of the arena or athletic champions. They were quite normal young men, who had made life decisions and commitments to Christ. The work of spreading and living the Gospel needed young men strong in body and in mind.

Body muscles can be developed by diet and exercise, but to what purpose unless the mind is also developed? These Christian young men had found life's best disciplines to develop both mind and body. They had and were studying the Word of God. The New Testament writings were now being circulated among the Churches. Strong youth must learn to read, to write and figure. Old Testament scrolls were being studied and compared with these new writings approved by the Apostles. The aged Apostle was well aware of the studies involved when he wrote, "The Word of God abideth in you."

John well knew the potency of the ever-living Word of God. Jesus was the living Word of God. He spoke the words given Him of His Father. The words of Jesus, preserved in writing were being memorized by strong young men.

In John's writings "Word" and "believe" often speak of first light and wooings of the Holy Spirit upon the soul seeking for God. To these John adds another key word, used twice in verse 14, "ye have **OVERCOME** the wicked one."

In John's last years, the list of Christian, overcoming martyrs was already long and constantly growing. Young converts were not ignorant of the high cost of Christian discipleship. He could have held up many glowing examples of Christian martyrs as examples of his strong young men. His "ye have overcome" demands a closer look at what John is saying.

The past tense here is quite significant. He is saying "The wicked one opposed you in your first efforts to believe and obey the Gospel. But you persevered in believing prayer. Now you are praising God for this first, great victory over the evil one."

The accounts of past and present Martyrs for Christ should be a part of Christian education indeed: but the teaching of John's language here is most simple. All Christians have to overcome the evil one every day.

John shows great wisdom here. The Christian must never feel himself or herself secure from the attacks of the evil one. Past overcomings should leave us joyful indeed, but also wary and watchful. Satan's next attack will come at our weakest point in unexpected ways.

Sleepy Christians soon lose the daily overcomings in battle with Satan and his minions. The first glowing love of Jesus fades to a nauseating lukewarmness. There may be deliverances at times for God is very merciful, but there are no overcomings of the evil one.

This first overcoming and all daily overcomings are precious to God. A strong testimony for Christ must start with the inward "abiding" of the word and in the daily "overcoming" of the evil one.

Aged Christians today should note this patriarchal approval of youth who are strong in the faith. Surely we have not forgotten our first surrender to Christ; how the evil one sought to break us down, to confound our knowledge and budding faith. Worldly associates turned away from us. Satan tempted through our fleshly appetites and contested our every attempt to reform from lustful and worldly habits. But praise to our wonderful Saviour, the load of sin was gone. Instead Christ's peace and love filled heart and soul and joyful song arose deep within. A new love to God and to man was a thrilling experience. The soul looked forward to loving obedience to Christ. It was a wondrous miracle of God's Grace.

You, our precious young brethren and sisters in the faith of Jesus have each had your own battles with the evil one and have overcome him. Yours is a new love life in the Holy Spirit. Only you can direct and guard this heavenly treasure. You only can make those daily decisions for God. In this inner love life from God, old things have passed away and all things have become new. "...Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He (she) that feareth is not made perfect in love."

Ask Jesus to help you rearrange your inner love life. "...Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Christ's love has many helpful and constructive disciplines. John's directives go deep here and calls for a complete circumcision of the heart.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Did someone ask, "What do you mean by things that are in the world?" John might well answer, "I speak of those things which the eyes lust after, those things for which the flesh lusts, and those things that build pride in life. You cannot, you must not, you dare not love the world and its things. Your love life must always center on God, the Great Three in One, One in Three. Jesus is ever your Saviour and Lord." Verse 17, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: But he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Let Jesus share the inner secrets of your heart. He will also share your overcoming joy. You can bring this joy and Christ love to the assembly of Brethren and Sisters and know a taste of heavenly bliss. Together you will praise and pray and listen to the Gospel declared by Christ's servants.

Greetings to all the Brethren and Sisters.

James D. Cover

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

CALEB GETS A MOUNTAIN

Joshua 14

Joshua and Caleb were two men who had faith in God. They were sent with the men from the tribes of Israel to spy out the land of Canaan. All the men, except Joshua and Caleb, said it was impossible to take the land as God had commanded them, because there were giants in the land. Joshua and Caleb said that with God to help them, they would be able to overcome the land. Because the children of Israel refused to take the advice of Joshua and Caleb, they had to wander in the wilderness for forty years, until all those who were twenty years old or more at that time had died - all except Joshua and Caleb who lived to enter the land of Canaan and dwell there. God had promised Caleb an inheritance in Canaan because of his faithfulness.

After Moses died, Joshua crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land, driving out the people who lived there. So Joshua took the whole land according to all that the Lord said unto Moses and gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes.

Caleb came unto Joshua and said, "When I went in to spy out the land I wholly followed the Lord my God. Moses swore on that day saying, 'Surely the land whereon your feet have walked shall be your inheritance and your children's forever because you have wholly followed the Lord.' And the Lord has kept me alive as he said for forty five years since he spoke unto Moses and I am this day eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was then. Now, therefore, give me this mountain, that the Lord promised me at that time. The Anakims are protected by great fenced cities but if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said."

So Joshua blessed Caleb and gave Mt. Hebron to him for an inheritance.

Because Caleb wholly followed the Lord, God gave him a mountain. God never goes back on His promises. If we wholly follow Jesus, God has promised us eternal life and a home in Heaven. Isn't that worth living for God?

Brother Rudy Cover

TRUST

As we stop and consider this little, five letter word, we find it means, "To put one's confidence in, or to have faith in." To have confidence is to be assured that what we have faith in, is for real. When we trust in the Lord this fulfills all the faith, trust, confidence, and assurance that one needs for salvation.

In Matt. 12:17-21 we find the old, prophet Isaiah knew of this trust and foretold of the Gentiles trusting in the name of the Lord. We find in Psalms 44:6 that we are NOT to put our trust in the weapons of this world, and in Psalms 49:6-7 that we are NOT to trust in wealth or our possessions. As the Psalmist David said, even with wealth one could not ransom the soul. Psalms 146:3 tells us not to put our trust in the leaders of our land because they will lead us astray. They cannot help as far as our soul's salvation is concerned. The prophet Jeremiah tells us, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.", showing that if we trust in man we are misplacing our trust.

We are only to trust in the things of God. We can trust in God's Name, in His Word, and in His Mercy, as an ever-loving God. If we trust in the things of God we will also have confidence and assurance. We as a Christian people have confidence in God's Word or we wouldn't take it into our lives as we do. By taking it into our lives we show our confidence in our Lord and Saviour. We know and trust, or have confidence, in God's mercy which endureth for ever. We also put our trust in the Son of God as the mediator between us and our God. This gives us the assurance of everlasting life. I John 3:21-22 tells us that if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. This TRUST brings us to where we want to talk to our Saviour in prayer. I John 5:13-15 tells us that through this confidence in Him, we ask and know that He will hear us and with faith it will be answered.

We are taught in II Cor. 5:6 that if we have confidence, there will be things for us in the future. With this comes assurance. This to me is a great word, "assurance," the security of knowing that one's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Where would our trust and confidence be if we didn't have this assurance?

There are several steps to be taken in this trust, to gain this assurance. The first is believing in God's Word, then accepting Christ as our Saviour, then we stand on the promise of God, (John 10:28-30). Such a wonderful promise, that once we have put our trust in Him, and do His commandments that we are in His Hand, that we shall have life eternal and shall never perish, nor shall we be plucked out of His hand.

Do we put our trust and confidence in the Saviour of the world? Do we ever stop and ask ourselves, "Can our Lord and Saviour trust us to live the kind of life it takes to put us in that Glory Land?" We know that we can TRUST Jesus, CAN Jesus trust us?

Praise the Lord that we can depend on our Saviour, that we don't have to depend on ourselves.

In Christian Fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith

NEWS ITEMS

CLOVERLEAF, COLORADO

The Lord willing, the Cloverleaf Congregation plans to hold their Lovefeast meeting, April 23-24. The services will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning with the Lovefeast in the evening.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these services with us.
Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation plans to hold their Spring Lovefeast, April 30 and May 1, Lord willing. Services will start at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, also services in the afternoon with Lovefeast in the evening at 7:30. Services all day on Sunday.

Come and fellowship with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans to have our spring Lovefeast the first Sunday in May. Services start at 9:30 and continue throughout the day with Lovefeast proper in the evening.

We invite all to come and worship with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation plans to have their Spring Lovefeast on Saturday, May 14th starting at 2:00 p.m. with the Lovefeast in the evening.

Pray for these services that all who take part might receive a blessing and resolve to live closer to their Lord.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY

May 1 — Christ, The Head of the Body. Col. 1:1-29.

May 8 — MOTHER'S DAY - II Kings 4:8-37.

May 15 — Buried in Baptism; Risen Through Faith. Col. 2:1-23.

May 22 — Seeking Those Things Which Are Above. Col. 3:1-25;
4:1-9.

May 29 — The Gospel Comes With Power. I Thess. 1:1-10; 2:1-13.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What is the body of Christ? Col. 1:18.
- (2) How can we be holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in God's sight? Col. 1:23.
- (3) How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ affect us when we are baptized? Col. 2:12.
- (4) If we are in Christ, what place has our nationality in the church? Col. 3:11.
- (5) What kind of idols do unbelievers worship in our day? I Thess. 1:9; Col. 3:5.

A PIG . . . OR A CHICKEN?

If you didn't already know, there is considerable difference in making a contribution to the work of Christ and in being committed to Him. Lots of folk make contributions to Christ (maybe that same old dollar bill they have been giving since depression days), but few give their "bodies a living sacrifice", Romans 12:1-2.

The old story of the chicken and the pig illustrates this. A chicken and a pig were going down an old dirt road, when they noticed a sign telling of a banquet to be given for a charitable organization. Both the chicken and the pig thought they should help, but could not think of a way. Suddenly, the chicken said, "I know! I'll donate a dozen eggs, and you can donate the ham." "Hold on," said the pig. "For you, that's just a contribution, but for me it's a total commitment."

That is what God requires of us -- total commitment. Let us make Galatians 2:20 a pattern for our life: "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

--Selected from The Star

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY 1977

CONSIDER

Memory Verse, Psalm 199:59
 Consider how I love thy precepts:
 quicken me, O Lord, according to
 thy loving kindness.

Sun. 1-Psalm 77:1-20
 Mon. 2-Psalm 119:89-104
 Tues. 3-Psalm 119:153-168
 Wed. 4-Proverbs 6:1-23
 Thurs. 5-Proverbs 24:1-20
 Fri. 6-Proverbs 24:21-34
 Sat. 7-Proverbs 28:1-28

Memory Verse, Proverbs 6:6
 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; con-
 sider her ways, and be wise:

Sun. 8-Proverbs 29:1-27
 Mon. 9-Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
 Tues. 10-Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
 Wed. 11-Ecclesiastes 7:1-29
 Thurs. 12-Ecclesiastes 9:1-18
 Fri. 13-Isaiah 1:1-31
 Sat. 14-Isaiah 5:1-25

Memory Verse, Proverbs 24:12
 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it
 not: doth not he that pondereth the
 heart consider it? and he that keep-
 eth thy soul, doth not he know it?
 and shall not he render to every
 man according to his works?

Sun. 15-Isaiah 41:1-29
 Mon. 16-Isaiah 43:31-38
 Tues. 17-Isaiah 44:1-20
 Wed. 18-Isaiah 52:1-15
 Thurs. 19-Isaiah 57:1-21
 Fri. 20-Jeremiah 2:1-22
 Sat. 21-Jeremiah 9:1-26

Memory Verse, Proverbs 29:7
 The righteous considereth the
 cause of the poor: but the wicked
 regardeth not to know it.

Sun. 22-Jeremiah 23:1-24
 Mon. 23-Jeremiah 30:1-24
 Tues. 24-Jeremiah 33:1-26
 Wed. 25-Lamentations 1:1-22
 Thurs. 26-Lamentations 2:1-22
 Fri. 27-Lamentations 5:1-22
 Sat. 28-Ezekiel 12:1-28

Memory Verse, Isaiah 1:3
 The ox knoweth his owner, and the
 ass his master's crib: but Israel
 doth not know, my people doth not
 consider.

Sun. 29- Ezekiel 18:1-18
 Mon. 30-Ezekiel 18:19-32
 Tues. 31-Daniel 9:1-27

Memory Verse, Isaiah 5:12
 And the harp, and the viol, the
 tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in
 their feasts: but they regard not the
 work of the Lord, neither consider
 the operation of his hands.

Isaiah 57:1
 The righteous perisheth, and no
 man layeth it to heart: and merciful
 men are taken away, none con-
 sidering that the righteous is taken
 away from the evil to come.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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No. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PRAYER OF A TIRED MOTHER

Hear my whispered prayer to Thee,
Oh, Father: May I patient be,
Keep my voice soft, gentle, low;
Help me serene and calm to grow.
The little hands that clutch and cling,
The wilted flowers they often bring,
The restless feet that track in dirt,
The many little cuts and hurts
That fill my days.

So often I am tired and hurried,
When I have need to be unflurried.
Help me to know when things are real;
Their true importance help me feel,
And may I kiss the clinging hands,
With eagerness receive the flowers;
Help me to guide aright those feet,
Each hurt to bind and then repeat
Soft, soothing words.

- Amy Elizabeth Taylor

MOTHER'S DUTIES

The duties of a mother are many. It would be impossible to name all the things she is called upon to do. There are hurts to be kissed away, encouragement to be given, friends to be helped and the necessary provisions for the household secured and prepared.

Solomon realized the value of a mother. He said that the value of a virtuous woman was above the price of rubies. Many in this world seek after jewels and gems, forgetting that a woman who is virtuous is worth even more. Many will trade their virtue for gaudy and sparkling gems, but not the woman he praises in Proverbs 31.

He speaks of her duties as manager of the household. "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." She is willing to work hard. She does not sit around idle. "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." "... all her household are clothed with scarlet." "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." She plans ahead so her family will be fed and clothed.

This mother fulfilled her motherly duties so well that her children, who are often the severest of critics, praised and blessed her. They could remember the many times she had helped them, had seen them through the bums and illnesses of childhood. They remembered her provision for them even though she had to go without herself.

Solomon also spoke of her duties to her husband. He could "safely trust in her." Her purpose was to be a real helpmeet to him. She was glad she could support her husband who was well known

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

and looked-up-to. Perhaps the very fact that he had such a wife was part of the reason he was so favorably known. While this is a wife's duty, it is also a part of her duties as a mother. She is setting a noble example for her daughters to follow. She can not start too young in setting this example. Even young mothers can lay a worthy pattern for the next generation to follow.

The mother spoken of by Solomon did not limit her good deeds to her own family and household. "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." By extending her aid and generosity to those who are in need she is again setting a good example for her children. She is teaching her children to share what God had given. This is the purpose of the prosperity God extends to us: to be able to help others. It seems mothers have a special capacity for seeing the need that exists and to meet that need.

These duties are necessary and very important but there is one more duty that is greater. She had a duty to God. "... a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." A woman who does not fear the Lord can not be a virtuous woman, she can not fulfill the other duties Solomon has spoken of. "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." The greatest wisdom and kindness a mother can shower upon her family is to teach them about God and His Will for their lives.

The Apostle Paul spoke of a mother who fulfilled this duty. Paul considered Timothy to be his Spiritual son. In his Second Epistle to Timothy, he spoke of Timothy's great faith. He considered Timothy's mother and grandmother to be responsible for his faith. These faithful mothers had taught the boy well. It surely wasn't an easy task for Eunice to raise her son to be a pillar of faith. His father was unconverted and perhaps threw many roadblocks in the mother's way. But faith had given her the victory.

In the third chapter of Second Timothy, Paul spoke of many who lived in complete opposition to God. He spoke of some who wavered in their faith because of this great opposition. But he shows great confidence in Timothy that he would be able to stand, not only because he had been instructed by Paul but mainly because he had been taught the scriptures from a child up. His mother had given him a good foundation, he would not be blown about by every wind of doctrine. Mothers (and fathers, too) today should be teaching their children the scriptures. This teaching is not only in the study and memorization of various verses from the Bible. It is by setting before the children an example in living the scriptures. The mother who fulfills her duties toward her husband, her household, her children, her neighbors and her God will be laying a sturdy foundation for her children.

BEHOLD THY MOTHER

A Sermon by Elder Hayes Reed

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:23-30.

Today is known as MOTHER'S DAY. We can truthfully dedicate this day to Mothers with no disrespect to God or Jesus, because God gave us Mothers. Mrs. Anna Jarvis started this keeping of Mother's Day in 1907. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the first city to adopt the practice in 1908.

To many of us it is a day of memories: back to the days of childhood. Some of our Mothers have gone on to their Eternal Home. Mother did not spare herself. She gave of herself to her loved ones. Her life was lived in and for her children. The song called, "Suppertime" has brought memories and tears to many of us.

When Jesus, in His final hours of agony, looked down on that seething, angry, gloating mob how His heart must have yearned for just one kindly face among them: someone who really loved Him. Glancing down nearer, still nearer to the foot of the cross; there! His Mother (He knew she would surely be there, if at all able) and John, that beloved disciple. They did still love Him, so the women were there. How forsaken He must have felt that so few of His followers showed up at the last. But Mother was there. She stood looking up into the face of her dying Son. Methinks the tears had all dried up during the long trial and scourgings and the long, tedious journey up Golgotha's hill. There were none left to shed. Now, she gazes at Him, her Son, with all her heart's love showing.

She had known from the beginning that this dear boy was also God's Son. The angel had told her. Jesus had told her also, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" This, then must be His Father's business, for did He not say, "For I came... not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me," and "the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" And Simeon, in the Temple, when Jesus was a baby, told her, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own soul also." Now, it was happening.

As Jesus looked at her there, I'm sure He remembered all the things she had taught Him and the times she had kissed the little hurts away. This, she could not do now, but she could love Him. The love-light of Mother radiated up to Him there on that Old Rugged Cross and He, in turn, as the last human thing on earth He could do for her provided for her welfare. He gave her into the keeping of His beloved disciple.

How many times have you looked to Mother for courage and comfort? When Jesus looked into His Mother's eyes it gave Him the courage and strength to say, "It is finished." Mary knew that despite the agony He was going through, that He would take His place with His Father in Heaven. The angel had told her and Mary had kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

What is the prevailing thought in a Godly Mother's prayer? I can tell you. It is the main theme through all her prayers. It is for the welfare and safety of her boys and girls, whether on land or sea. And always, for the saving of their souls. A ship went down at sea. All were lost but one young man the rescuers found on a raft. He asked about the rest and when he was told that all were gone, he said, with tears streaming down his cheeks, "I know my Mother has been praying for me."

Where would you and I be, if we had not had praying Mothers? My Mother wanted to know that I was home safe at night. She kept the light burning till I got home. She also wanted to know where I would spend eternity. The story is told of a devout Mother and a non-Christian Father. They were blest with a lovely baby girl. Years went by. The father would not accept Jesus as his Lord. The child became a god in his life. One day the Minister said to him, "Bill, I want you to accept Jesus. Did you ever realize that if the child was taken you'd never see her again, or, if you were taken now, you'd never see her again, either? Unless you accept Jesus you will be separated forever in Eternity." The young Father decided to accept Jesus and live with his loved ones forever.

Do we as Fathers recognize what a job Mother has? Let's help them a little more. A mother needs all the help and co-operation that she can get from Dad and the children. If ever there was a time

we need good Mothers it is NOW. The children in this Restless Generation show the depravity of the homes they have come up in. It is time we became a team - a husband and wife team - co-operating, bringing up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Help us build a better America. It can only be done by building a better home life for our children.

D. L. Moody's Mother was forty years old when her husband died. Twins were born to her shortly after his death, making six children that she had to raise to manhood and womanhood by herself. He said there were only three books in the home. His Mother would gather the children around the fireplace and instruct them. After her death, his sister told him that Mother cried herself to sleep at night. He said that she was always so cheerful in the daytime that he never knew. Her motto was, "Give others the sunshine, Tell Jesus the rest." Susannah Wesley, too, knew the problems of rearing a large family.

MOTHER

She gave the best years of her life, with joy, for me
And robbed herself with loving heart, so kind and free for me.
With willing hands she toiled from day to day,
For me, she prayed, when head-strong youth would have it's way.

Her gentle arms, my cradle once, are weary now
For time has set the seal of care upon her brow
And though no other eyes than mine, there meaning trace,
I read my history in the lines of her dear face.

And 'mid His gems who showers gifts, as shining sands,
I count her days as pearls that fall from His dear hands.

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:2-3.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 El Pomar, Waterford, Calif. 95386



"There's no thirsting for life's pleasures,
Nor adorning rich and gay;
For I've found a richer treasure,
One that fadeth not away."

HONOR THY MOTHER

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12. This is the first commandment with a promise. There are two conditions by which we receive the promise - by honoring both our fathers and our mothers. Sometimes children just obey whichever parent really gets after them, but there is an obligation to honor, respect and obey both parents. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Eph. 6:1.

Why should a mother be honored? Is she to be honored for any special thing? A mother has lots of little duties and sometimes lots of big ones. She may go about her work out of habit, but there's a quality in a mother which you won't find in a woman who is merely hired to keep house. A mother, especially a Christian mother, has a personal interest in what's going on. She attempts to help each child become the best person possible by giving of herself and truly "...guide the house..." (I Tim. 5:14). This is part of what she is to be honored for.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30. When a woman fears the Lord, she wants to serve Him acceptably. She is more concerned about the beauty in her heart than the beauty on the outside. As a mother, she is concerned about her family. She wants to teach her children the real values in life, the things of God. Her love prompts faithfulness in all her duties, and she will be blessed and honored for it.

Mothers often will do more for a child than anyone else, even at risk to themselves. Moses should have been thrown into the river to drown when he was born, according to Pharaoh's decree, but his mother had other plans: She hid him three months and then placed him in a little ark among the plants along the river's edge. (Ex. 2:1-11). She had no way to know that Pharaoh's daughter would find Moses and want him for her son. She didn't know either that God had a special purpose for Moses' life. But, she gave of herself in every way to preserve Moses' life. She feared God rather than man, and the son she saved became a special tool in God's hand, a real honor to her.

Hannah had no children and because of that, she endured much taunting from her husband's other wife. Hannah feared the Lord and took her problem to Him. She prayed specifically for a man child and promised to give him back to the Lord if only He would remember her in her affliction. (I Sam. 1:11). Her request was granted and when Samuel was old enough, she took him to the

house of the Lord to live. She was faithful in keeping her promise to God, and He blessed her for it by giving her five more children. Samuel was in favor with both God and man and he surely was an honor to his faith-filled mother.

A mother's faith really influences her children and helps them to be what they should be. "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." II Tim. 1:5. Timothy's mother and grandmother had a special kind of faith, a victorious faith. They didn't just pretend to have it; it was real. Timothy was taught the Scriptures when he was a child and he was ready now to serve the Lord. (II Tim. 3:15). He no doubt honored and respected his mother, but also, his life was an honor to her.

Sometimes it is a mother-in-law who receives honor for her faithfulness to the Lord. Naomi was honored by her daughter-in-law, Ruth. She must have been a special mother-in-law for Ruth to prefer to be with her instead of her own mother. Very likely it was because Naomi was a God-fearing woman and Ruth wanted what she had. Ruth said, "...Whither thou goest, I will go; ... thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16. Naomi was kind and considerate of Ruth. Her faith and love helped bring out the best in Ruth. Ruth's life and concern for Naomi was truly an honor to both of them.

So your mother isn't the greatest mother in the world; should you honor her anyhow? Yes, if you want to please God. "Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Col. 3:20. Mothers aren't necessarily perfect, and if yours isn't, just remember that she needs your love and respect to be at her best. She may need more help than that to be a good mother, but she can be helped. In the next article, "The Mirror", you will see how a careless mother found herself and became a mother to be respected.

A mother's imperfections are not to be honored. She is to be honored and praised for her faith in God, for her faithfulness in doing the work God has given her to do. Read Prov. 31:10-31 and you will see that her good qualities are an asset to the rest of the family, as well as to herself. Honor her for the good things she does and she will be pleased. So will God.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

PLEADINGS OF FAITH

The account in Matthew 15:21-28 tells of the woman of Canaan, whose daughter was "grievously vexed with a devil." Her insistent pleadings caused Jesus to answer, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Jesus seeks after lost ones. He seems to have felt that there was one to be found on the borders of Tyre and Sidon. Our Lord was drawn toward this woman. She, also, was drawn toward Him. Strange to say a devil caused her to seek Him.

The course of true faith is seldom without trials. Here we see the genuine love in the heart of Christ toward the woman and the genuine faith in the heart of the woman toward Christ, but difficulties sprang up. It seemed a hard sentence when Jesus said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to the dogs." While His wisdom tried her, His grace sustained her.

Why was Jesus come to this town? He sought seclusion. Mark 7:24 tells us, "...he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid." Yet the Syrophenician woman found Him and fell at His feet. Her pleadings disturbed the disciples. They said, "Send her away for she crieth after us." Jesus had been sent unto the Jews, but she, a Gentile "came and worshipped Him." There is more power in worship than in noise.

She dealt with the Saviour after a very heroic manner and in the wisest possible style. She won the Saviour's, "Great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

We may gather advice from this woman's example. First, she agreed with the Lord, whatever he said. Second, she plead with the Lord. Third, she had faith in the Lord. Never contradict His Word, which is forever settled in Heaven. He, who reads the Bible to find fault with it, will soon discover that the Bible finds fault with him. Do we say, "Truth Lord" when He tells us we have a depraved nature, when He describes us as going astray as a lost sheep, or describes us as having a deceitful heart?

Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. We are partial to ourselves and hence blinded. As the Lord, Jesus does not flatter us, He lets us see our case as it is. If one's heart agrees with what Jesus says, you may depend upon it - this is a work of grace. It will be my wisdom to examine the whole range of truth and see what doctrine will give me hope. One should be filled with hope and seek salvation of the Lord alone.

Repentance? Yes! You will no more repent in your own power

than go to Heaven on your merit. "...Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Those who have had the eyes of their understanding opened, will recognize that He is the Lord of mercy. Looking at this woman's faith, we see her crying out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord." She, also, called Him "Thou Son of David", in which she recognized His manhood and His kingship toward man.

He who made the Heaven and the Earth, and "upholdeth all things by the word of his power," Heb. 1:3, veiled his Godhead in that poor clay of ours. He sat as a weary man upon the curb of the well; He died with malefactors on the cross. All this out of love to man.

The Lord Jesus Christ was the one chosen by God on purpose to be a brother to us. He is the willing leader of a people, sinful and defiled, whom he raises to justification and holiness.

This woman might have been cheered by another theme. Our Lord said to His disciples, "I am not sent, but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She could have gathered the thought, "He is a shepherd for lost sheep. He is the one to whom I can look with confidence." Can you say with David, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psa. 23:1. Can you say with the Apostle, "...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." II Tim. 1:12. We have a High Priest who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. Therefore, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." Heb. 10:22-23.

Brother Ray S. Shank

COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

Some people think God has favorites, but he doesn't. Anyone who wants to communicate with God can do so. He loves everyone and He died for everyone. If one wants to communicate with God one must choose the way of living according to His way.

We communicate with Him through the death of His Son, Jesus, not through telephone, cables, letters, telegraph or any such things. Only through Jesus can we communicate with God.

We communicate with God through His Word and by learning some of His secrets. The Bible has lots of thoughts of God.

We communicate with others by thoughts, words, labors, and such like. Without God's thoughts we couldn't communicate, rightly, with others.

Sister Janice Sowers

CHILDREN'S PAGE

HORNETS! HORNETS! HORNETS!

Joshua 24:12-31

Joshua was the leader of the twelve tribes of Israel after the death of Moses. He was a faithful man of God and did what God told him. He drove out the inhabitants of Canaan but only by God's power and help. God used hornets to go before the army of Israel to drive out the enemies of Israel from the land.

Did you ever get stung by a hornet or a yellow-jacket? Most everyone has at some time and it sure doesn't feel good. Can you imagine an army with shields and spears and bows and arrows, helmets of brass and armour that covered the body, being chased by hornets? All this armour was to protect the soldier from getting wounded or hurt. Good armour could stop an arrow or a spear but it couldn't stop hornets. Wouldn't it be terrible to have hornets get under all that brass armour and sting as only hornets can? What would you do if you were getting chased and stung by hornets? I think I would start moving just as fast as I could and get away as quick as possible. That is just what the enemies of Israel did. They turned around and ran like they had never run before. They forgot all about fighting - they would do anything to get away from those terrible hornets. If they came to a lake or a river I suppose they would jump in. That's what I would do. There's nothing like getting stung to make a man get out and go.

How easy it is for the Lord to defeat the purpose of men! Joshua was faithful and obedient to God. He did just what God told him. So God blessed Joshua and helped him to overcome the inhabitants of Canaan.

Joshua was one hundred and ten years old when he died. And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that lived after Joshua and which had known the works of the Lord that He had done for Israel.

Live for Jesus; God will protect and care for you. Even if it seems impossible, if we do our part, God will help us. Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Brother Rudy Cover

BEHOLD

When we see this word used, in the New Testament, do we know what it means, or do we think we do? Have we stopped to look up the definition? Does it tell us something? Do we pay special attention when it does appear?

It is used at least forty-five times in the Book of Matthew, just as a starter in looking through the New Testament. Let us keep in mind the definition of the word, "BEHOLD" as we read further. Webster defines "behold" as, "To hold in view, or attention; to see, look at."

The first "behold" in Matthew comes in 1:23. "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name IMMANUEL..." Here we have the blessed promise of a Saviour being born into the world. Let us all behold our Saviour. Do we hold Him in view, or keep our attention on Him? (2:13) We see an angel coming to Joseph in a dream telling him to take the young child and his mother and to flee to Egypt. When the danger to our Saviour was over (2:19), behold, an angel appeared telling Joseph, to take the young child and go back to the land of Israel. There we find the Christ Child growing to adulthood and the start of His ministry.

Wouldn't it have been wonderful to have been able to listen to our Saviour preach? The sound of our Master's voice must have been as music to the ears of those who were following Him. Can we as followers of Him hear that sweet voice talking to us? If we are interested in our Lord and what He wants us to do, we can hear His voice. Oh! the many wonderful things our Saviour taught as He walked on this earth. Can we hear Him as He gave the Sermon on the Mount? Teaching us to give alms, how to pray, how we should fast, and of laying up treasures in Heaven. We are to forget the cares of this world, so we can have a home in Heaven with Him. (6:26), "Behold, the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

If we BEHOLD our Saviour He will open the truths of this Book to us as food for our souls. We don't want to be as those in 8:29, "And, behold they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?" We should be happy when our Saviour comes to us. Can we picture in our minds those men possessed with devils? Think of the joy they had in their bodies, after Jesus cast the devils into the swine. Why can't we let Jesus have His way with us and be happy that He wants us to follow Him?

When He had cast the devils out of these men, (8:34), "Behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus," but only to send Him

away. So He took ship to another city (9:2) "And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy..." knowing that our Saviour would heal him. Then (9:3), "Behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth." Did the man with the palsy believe the scribes? No. He had faith in our Saviour; he could see that he had been made whole, and he arose and went into his house.

Chapter 9, verse 10 shows our Saviour eating a meal with the publicans and sinners. We are to keep in view that we are sinners and we ask the Lord to eat with us at every meal. When He comes to dine with us do we worship as we should or do we come to Him as, (9:18), "Behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live." This man wanted something before he would come to the Saviour for help. Do we do this or are we of such faith that we can be as (9:20) "And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment." She knew all she need do was to touch His garment to be made whole. Then we come to 9:32, behold, they brought a man possessed with a devil and He cast him out. They marveled at this. Do we marvel at the miracles that we see the Lord do?

When the Lord had called the twelve apostles, (10:16) He said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves." He wanted them to keep in view the fact that Satan was going to be working against them. We know that before our Saviour started His ministry, there was one who was preparing the way of the Lord, for Jesus referred to it by (11:8) asking the multitude, what they had gone into the wilderness to see. "A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in king's houses." Being in the wilderness should have ruled out soft clothes but Jesus had to tell them, (11:10) "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Not only did John not wear soft clothes, but he "came neither eating nor drinking, and they say He hath a devil." But (11:19) the Son of man comes both eating and drinking and they say, "Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners." Isn't it wonderful that our Saviour is a friend to sinners? If He wasn't, where would we be? When the Pharisees saw the Lord being friends with the sinners, they tried to find fault with Him. So when (12:2) they saw the disciples plucking corn and eating it on the Sabbath, they said, unto him, "Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day." After all the miracles they had seen Jesus perform, they still couldn't see our Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath.

Then (12:10), "And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him." Jesus healed the hand and told the Pharisees that if one of them had a sheep fall in a pit they would pull it out, and how much better it was to help a man, rather than an animal. He went on to say, "Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days." It seems most accounts we have of what our Saviour did, such as healing or casting out devils, was on the sabbath days. If it had been wrong, then he wouldn't have done it on that day. In 12:18 we find, "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased." These words would not have been spoken if it had been unlawful to do good on the sabbath.

As our Saviour went about teaching and preaching to every one, He said, in part of 12:41, "...behold, a greater than Jonas is here." Yes, this preaching was better than anything Jonah did. In 12:42, it tells of the wisdom of Solomon, "and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Yes, our Lord has more wisdom than Solomon did. If only the people had understood that the Wisdom of the Ages was walking the earth with them. Would it make a difference if He were walking the earth now? While Jesus was speaking to the crowd, "Behold, his mother and his brethren, stood without desiring to speak with him." One of the disciples said, (12:47), "Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with you." The Lord said as He held out His hand toward His disciples, "who is my mother and brethren?" (12:49), "Behold, my mother and brethren these are the ones that do the will of my father, the same are my mother and my brethren!"

- To be continued
Brother Orvis Smith

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 4-8, 1977

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Maranatha Bible Camp, located on Interstate 80, 13 miles east of North Platte, Nebraska. Entrance to the Camp Grounds is on the south side of Interstate 80, at the Maxwell, Nebraska Interchange.

Those coming by bus, come to Maxwell, Nebraska, those

coming by plane, come to North Platte, Nebraska and call the Camp Grounds for someone to meet you.

You will need to furnish your own bedding. Bedding will be available for those coming by bus or plane.

There is ample parking for campers and trailers, with several places for complete hook-up. Send your reservations stating how many there will be of you, even though you will have your camper or trailer.

The cost is going to be \$6.50 per day, per person. To help cover this expense, send donations to the Trustee Board.

For reservations, write to:

Bro. Floyd Haldeman, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063 or

Bro. Carl E. Reed, 4716 - 139th Street, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

Address:

Maranatha Bible Camp

Box 549

North Platte, Nebraska 69101

Telephone: 308-582-4512

Brother Carl E. Reed

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Emmert O. Shelly, Jr. is R. 2, Box 512, Littlestown, Pennsylvania 17340.

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the many prayers offered up in my behalf and for the many cards and letters which I received while in the Hospital and Nursing Home.

It is a comfort and joy to know that you care. May God ever keep you in loving care and guidance is my prayer.

In Christian Love
Sister Bertha Jarboe

TRACT AVAILABLE

Through the generosity of a Brother one of Elder B. E. Kesler's tracts has been reprinted. The title of the tract is "The Sabbath -Its Origin and Observance." You may order what you can use from the Editor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Lovefeast services at West Fulton will be on Saturday, May 21. There will be services on Saturday forenoon and afternoon, with Communion in the evening.

You are invited to attend all of these services.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

MAY 15, 1977

No. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CONFERENCE BLESSINGS

Lord, cause Thy face on us to shine,
Give us Thy peace, and seal us Thine;
Teach us to prize the means of grace,
And love Thine earthly dwelling place.

One is our faith, and one our Lord,
One body, Spirit, hope, reward:
May we in one communion be,
One with each other, one with Thee.

Bless all whose voice salvation brings,
Who minister in holy things;
The elders, pastors, deacons, bless;
Clothe them with zeal and righteousness:

Let many in the judgment day,
Turned from the error of their way,
Their hope, their joy, their crown appear:
Save those who preach and those who hear.

- Thomas Cotterill

CONFERENCE DECISIONS

In a few days, if the Lord is willing, another General Conference will be held. Conference time is a special time for those who are privileged to attend. The modern means of transportation which are available today make it possible for more to attend Conference each year. Not only those who attend profit from the meeting, but the Church as a whole. The Church is strengthened by the fellowship of her members, by the preaching of the Gospel, by the consultations and decisions made concerning the business of the Church. The more who attend and have a part in the services and work of the Church, the stronger and better informed will the Church be.

Under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the sound of the Gospel many at Conference feel challenged to live a more consistent life. Others, there, make that life-changing decision to forsake the devil and the world and to cling to the blood-stained cross of Christ. The Church will be strengthened when these kinds of decisions are made at Conference.

Decisions are also made at Conference which are not merely personal but for the whole body. Conference was originally designed as a time when the members of the Church could meet to discuss the problems and needs of the Church and to make such decisions as seemed good to further the prosperity of the Church. The Brethren have combined the preaching of the Gospel, the fellowship of the Saints and the business affairs of the Church into one meeting, since all of these are Biblical injunctions for the Church. The business of the Church can be more amiably and

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Spiritually handled, when surrounded by worship and fellowship.

When the Brethren met for their first Conference in May, 1742, they had a serious question to discuss. They were being invited to join with other German-speaking Churches of Pennsylvania to form one religious body. They needed to discuss the demands and the ramifications of this movement. While they could desire a union among these various groups, they could not consent to be a part of it, for to do so would have meant compromising many of the Biblical doctrines upon which they had been established. They had suffered persecution and hardship because of these Bible teachings and they were not about to give them up for the sake of a man-made organization. After this first Conference the Brethren came together from time to time to discuss the problems that they were confronted with. These meetings were not always held on a yearly basis at first but by the end of the eighteenth century it had become a yearly meeting. As the Brethren moved to new areas and were separated, these Conferences became more important as a means to keep the Brethren united upon the faith and practice of the Church. When worldly forces came against the scattered Brethren, they felt a need to have the counsel of their Brethren on these matters. The decisions made at these meetings were made known to the members at home with the expectation that they would be honored, since these decisions were made by these dedicated Brethren who gathered from far and near.

The Brethren built their Conference upon a Biblical pattern. Acts 15 recounts the Church's first Conference. It was held at Jerusalem to consider the question of circumcision. There was unrest and division within the Church over the teaching of some who wanted to require the Gentile converts to be circumcised in order to be members of the Church. This attempt to mix law with grace was discussed by the Brethren, who gathered from the various Churches. The discussion was sharp but when a decision was reached through the direction of the Holy Spirit, (if the Holy Spirit had not directed in this meeting we would not have this account), it was relayed to the congregations at a distance. The Conference expected that decision to be honored by all who were members of the Church.

The decisions (minutes) of today's Conference are as worthy of being followed as those made at Jerusalem. Today the same Holy Spirit directs, who did at Jerusalem. The work of the Church is the same today. There were those who chose to ignore or treat lightly the decisions of that Conference. They continued to preach the need of circumcision. But we see the words of warning, Paul wrote to the Galatians, who were following these false teachers. "If any

man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:9b. The Jerusalem Conference had made its decision, these teachers taught contrary to it and their end is here predicted. Would any today be so careless as to knowingly teach and act against the decisions of Conference?

THE MIRROR

A family lived in a poor neighborhood in a rather rundown and uncared-for house. The mother went around with her hair uncombed. Clothes were strung all over the house and never seemed to find their proper place. The children followed their mother's pattern, except for the oldest daughter. She was ashamed of the general mess and wanted to improve it somehow.

This daughter earned a few extra dollars one week, which she gave to her mother. She intended it to be used for some necessities for the family. She was heartsick when her mother came home with a huge, very ornate mirror. Her mother said she had always wanted such a mirror and couldn't resist it, so she hung it in their living room. The mirror was too elegant for such a messed-up place and it seemed like a complete waste.

But wait! Mother began combing her hair when she saw how awful she looked. She began keeping the house clean and insisting that the children be neat and help keep things in order. "After all," she told them, "someone might see you and you can't go around looking like a freak." Was that a magic mirror? Of course not, but when the mother saw what she looked like, she was ashamed and wanted to be different. She then took steps to make things right.

This mother became respectable after she saw herself as she really was. I don't recall all the details, but this mother eventually found her way to Christ, through the efforts of her daughter and a concerned Sunday School teacher. She had changed herself outwardly and now with Christ in her heart, a complete transformation had taken place.

There's another mirror in this world, a mirror which lets us see what we really are, how messed-up we are inside. This mirror reflects back the things which are in our hearts. Whether you are a mother, a father, a son or a daughter, you need to see yourself in this mirror before you can really desire to be what you should be. Do you know what this mirror is? It is the Word of God.

Our hearts can be just as messed up with sin as this family's house was with clothes and other clutter. This clutter and confusion overwhelmed and little good there. When our hearts are more concerned about our personal enjoyment than about Christ,

our lives will be full of selfish clutter. Sometimes this sin clutter comes from (spiritual) laziness. There's nothing within to motivate us to seek something better, so we keep ignoring the mess our hearts are in.

When this mother saw the mess they lived in and the mess she was personally, she wanted to be different. But she didn't stop with wanting to; she did what the mirror showed her to do. She didn't stop with herself either, but she influenced her family to be what they should be. No doubt the whole neighborhood was improved, simply because she got a good look at herself everyday.

"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetting what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:23-25. God's Word will show us what we are and His Word tells us how to live as we should, but just merely hearing or looking into it isn't enough. We must remember what we've seen and act on our new knowledge.

This mother saw herself at first in a very bad condition. Her image or reflection was not good to see. But as she acted on her new knowledge, her image steadily improved. A sinner sees an ugly reflection when he "views" himself in God's Word. If he acts on the things he has learned, each time he looks, his image will be more pleasing. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Cor. 3:18. As you grow in the Lord, you will reflect more and more of the glory of the Lord.

The blessing comes to the one who hears the Word and then does it. This mother no doubt was blessed when she did what she saw was right. God's Word gives direction and purpose to our lives, naturally as well as spiritually. It is a constant reminder of our position before God, just as the mirror constantly reminded this mother of her condition. By seeing yourself in a mirror and acting on that knowledge, you can improve yourself considerably on the outside. But it takes the mirror of God's Word to reflect your heart-image and then to make it what it should be.

The Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. When you see yourself in the mirror of God, you will get a true image. If you don't like what you see, let God change you and make you a child of His. Children resemble their parents. If we resemble God as we should, the image we see in the mirror of His Word will be a good one. What do YOU see in His mirror?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SHEEP

Again and again, Jesus used animals and objects to illustrate great truths. He talked about a mother hen and her chicks, about foxes, dogs, hogs and sparrows. He talked about salt and water, light and a candle, a coin and a pearl of great price.

When Jesus told the story of the ninety and nine, He said if a man had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed away, He would leave the ninety and nine and go looking for the lost one. Luke 15:4.

It is amazing how God made animals to picture spiritual things. It is said that an ox, a beast of burden, when the going gets rough and he can hardly pull his load, will fall to his knees to pull. So Christians ought to fall on their knees when the going gets rough.

A domestic sheep is the only animal in this wide world that must have a shepherd to look after it or it will die. It is the only animal known to man that has no defense whatsoever against his natural enemies. A small dog can kill a large sheep. It does not have the equipment to fight larger animals, nor even smaller ones, such as the fox, coyote or wildcat. Usually an animal that is not a fighter has some other means of defense. A jack-rabbit or a deer can outrun most of its enemies. A cottontail rabbit can escape to a hollow log or can hide under the corncrib. A squirrel can climb a tree. A prairie dog can burrow into the ground. But a sheep can't run fast, can't climb a tree, or dig a hole in the ground. With a shepherd, there is a chance for survival. Most animals have hair that grows to a given length and then does not get any longer. The wool of the sheep grows longer and longer every day. If he does not have a shepherd to shear him, he will die.

When we hear, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." Psalms 23:1-2, we notice that the shepherd leads the sheep.

Isa. 53:6 tells us that men are like foolish sheep, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." It is easy to see that it is foolish for a sheep to leave a shepherd. It is just as foolish for man to go away from God. Just as a sheep needs a shepherd, so man needs a Saviour. We need Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

A sheep cannot defend itself from its enemies, but neither can man. A man can no more defend himself against sin and Satan than a sheep can defend itself against a beast of prey. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

walketh about, seeking whom He may devour." I Pet. 5:8.

A sheep has no way of cleansing himself from the filth of the pasture. Man has no way of cleansing himself from the sins of the world. We need the Shepherd to cleanse us. If a man tries to clean-up his own life, if he resolves that he will quit cussing, that he will abstain from booze, that he will no longer live in adultery, that he will no longer gamble, it would be in vain. The old hymn asks, "What can wash away my sins?" It rightly answers, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Bible students are reminded, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." John 1:7b.

A sheep needs guidance. This fits mankind. Just about the only thing a man can find without the help of God, is the road to ruin. The Bible reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5-6.

These facts are pertinent to salvation, for Jesus said, "I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

Brother Ray S. Shank

SOUTH FULTON SALVATION

A Sermon by Elder George Replogle

Text: Psa. 27:1

David said, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" I believe he really felt this way: "whom shall I fear?"

Salvation doesn't seem to make much of an impression on people, but it is the most important thing for our soul. "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul." Jesus said that one soul is worth more than the WHOLE world. Think seriously and sincerely about salvation. If I were to ask you if you would want the value of the whole world with it's end - destruction, damnation and hell - or salvation and Heaven, you would answer, "Salvation."

We all need the Saviour to have our iniquities washed away. He shed His blood to save all. God sent His Son to deliver the plan of salvation to all who will receive Him. We need not fear that anything is lacking in that great plan. If we belong to God and believe He is very Life, it doesn't matter how powerful the devil is. We need have no fear that the devil will overcome us. Jesus said, "I have overcome the world." That means now - not in the future. "...Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

The world is seeking pleasures and possessions and does not follow Christ, yet professes to have salvation. Worldly people today follow everything but the Word of God, just as in the Old Testament. The Bible says to try the spirits to see if they are of God, "...Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God." Follow not after them.

Some spirits have great influence and great knowledge. They say here is Christ or there but they fall short; their fruit is not in harmony with God's Word. God says we must be born again of water and the spirit and come out from among them.

Come out from whom?

Those who teach that you can do what you want and go to Heaven anyway. I'd rather believe the Holy Word than all the wisdom of man. Some say, "things and people and God have changed and are different now." James says, "...with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning." Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Some will tell us if we want to keep up we must change with the times. But I believe anyone rooted and grounded in the faith would not want to change.

Christ GAVE His precious blood to blot out our sins and to save us FROM our sins not IN them. If we still want the pleasure of this world, I'm fearful we have not been born again and become a new creature.

We pass from death unto life, the gift of God through Christ, "...Salvation of the righteous is of the Lord." Psalms 37:39. The Lord is Strength for the individual, the only one who can give you power to overcome Satan. Just take God at His word. All we have to do is believe what He says.

Christ gives strength in time of trouble, especially when our faith is tested. When we think of precious words and steadfast Apostles, we think of Stephen and Paul.

Paul said, "I count not my life dear to me," concerning the danger of going to Jerusalem. Why didn't he count his life dear? What would we say? Are we convinced as Paul was, that the Lord is with us, even when our life is threatened? Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." II Tim. 4:7-8.

We take the awful risk of missing that reward by desiring this world's possessions and glory. In this flesh we think and do things

we ought not, but if we are faithful to confess, He will forgive us. What a wonderful concern God has for us; if we fall, there is a way back to Him. How we ought to love Him with all our hearts and souls and minds. I wonder if we fully understand His wonderful plan for us.

Paul said, "For I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Oh, that we could be that determined! That was what the crucifixion was for - our salvation and our strength in time of trouble.

Who do you think was strength for Stephen? His face shone as an angel. I don't think he felt the physical pain of the stones when he saw Heaven opened. He wasn't thinking of the glory of man and his possessions. He was thinking of the salvation that was his. He was filled with the POWER of God. God gave him glory and the sight of the Savior. I don't think he could have had a more wonderful experience.

"... If a man keep my sayings, he shall never see death." He is speaking of spiritual death. It is something for us to think about. When we accept Christ and His salvation, we prove to God we want to seek Him and then we will receive His reward. May God help us.

Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE

June 5 — The Church at Thessalonica Approved. I Thess. 2:14-20; 3:1-13.

June 12 — The Second Coming of Christ. I Thess. 4:1-18.

June 19 — Ready for Christ's Coming. I Thess. 5:1-28.

June 26 — TEMPERANCE - Dan. 1:1-21.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What word did Timothy bring Paul from the Church at Thessalonica? - I Thess. 3:6.
- (2) Who will Jesus bring with Him at His second coming? - I Thess. 4:14.
- (3) Where will the saints of God, which are alive at His coming, meet the Lord? - I Thess. 4:17.
- (4) What is another name for the breastplate of faith and love? - I Thess. 5:8, Eph. 6:14.
- (5) What did Daniel, when captive at the court of Babylon, purpose in his heart? - Dan. 1:8.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

To be held at
MARANATHA BIBLE CAMP
Near North Platte, Nebraska
June 4 - 8, 1977

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Fred Pifer	Manna From Home	Deut. 6:20-25
Sat. P.M.	Daniel Skiles	Knowing God	Psa. 143:6
Sat. Eve.	Frank Shaffer	Where Is Your Faith?	Luke 8:25
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School	Children-The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Sun. A.M.	Clyde Schultz	Pure Religion	James 1:27
Sun. A.M.	David Ebling	To Be Supplied	
Sun. P.M.	Paul Blocher	Convicted Conscience	John 8:9
Sun. P.M.	Harley Flory	First Things First	Matt. 6:33
Sun. Eve.	Jacob Ness	Pressing Toward The Mark	Phil. 3:14
Sun. Eve.	H. Edward Johnson	(To the Young People)-The Ministry of Reconciliation	II Cor. 5:18
Mon. A.M.	BIBLE STUDY	Adults-The Spiritual Ministry	II Cor. 3
		Children-The Parable of the Sower	Matt. 13:1-32
Mon. A.M.	Dennis St. John	A People With A Purpose	Acts 11:23
Mon. P.M.	Herman Jamison	To Be Supplied	
Mon. P.M.	Rudy Cover	Giants In The Land	Num. 13:30-33
Mon. Eve.	Joshua Rice	New Testament Doctrines	II Tim. 3:16-17
Mon. Eve.	Dale Jamison	To Be Supplied	
Tues. A.M.	BIBLE STUDY	Adults-Paul's Method of Ministering the Gospel	II Cor. 4
		Children-Christ, The Model Teacher	Matt. 13:33-58
Tues. A.M.	Virgil Leatherman	To Be Supplied	
Tues. P.M.	Alvin Chupp	A Guaranteed Life Through Christ	Jno. 14:23
Tues. P.M.	Milton Cook	To Be Supplied	
Tues. Eve.	Hayes Reed	Go Ye	Matt. 28:19-20

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOD DOES NOT FORGET!

Judges 2:6-23, 3-1-12

Joshua was a man who obeyed God. All his life he did what God told him. Joshua died when he was one hundred and ten years old. He taught the people that to trust God was the important thing. The ones who had lived in Joshua's time served God all the days of their lives. They had seen the miracles and the great works that the Lord had done for Israel. But after those people died, a new generation took their place and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers and began to worship the idols of the people that lived about them. If they had utterly destroyed them as the Lord commanded, they would not have been tempted to serve idols.

God was angry with Israel. They became weak and they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went the hand of the Lord was against them for evil. Nevertheless, after a time, the Lord raised up men to judge Israel. The Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies—all the days that the judge lived. But just as soon as the judge that God placed over them died, Israel would return to serving idols and all the wicked ways that went with it. So the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel and He didn't drive the nations out of the land that were left when Joshua died.

The children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizites, Hivites and Jebusites and they married their daughters that the Lord had forbidden them to marry and they forgot the Lord their God and served heathen idols. Then the Lord delivered Israel into the hand of the king of Mesopotamia and they served him for eight years. Israel was so oppressed by their slavery that they cried unto the Lord. God heard them and raised up a deliverer named Othniel, who was Caleb's nephew. Othniel judged Israel and went out to war against their enemies. Then Israel had peace for forty years.

God will always help us when we trust Him and obey Him. "...Trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believed." 1 Tim. 4:10.

Brother Rudy Cover



Jesus Christ isn't seeking admirers; He is seeking disciples.

BEHOLD

Continued from May 1, 1977 Issue

As Jesus preached to the multitude, He spake a parable, (13:3), "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." As we go about our daily lives, what are we sowing? Is it the Word of God? We all know that if we plant seed, we need sunlight to make them grow. When we plant the seed of righteousness, we know that it needs SONlight to make it grow.

This SONlight can be followed and one can see it shining over all. When Jesus and the apostles went into the mountain, our Lord's face shone as the sun and His raiment was as white as the light. "And, behold, there (17:3) appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him." This would surely have been something to see! Peter wanted to build three altars on the spot, where it took place, and while he was still talking, (17:5) "behold a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Do we hear Him? Do we listen, when we do hear Him? Do we pay attention to His voice?

If we stop our every day doings and concentrate, we can almost picture Him in our minds, even if we cannot see Him face to face. Our guardian angel can, (18:10), "That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Isn't it wonderful to know if we live the life of the faithful, we will be able to behold the face of our Heavenly Father? It will be the kindest face we have ever seen, the love-light in His eyes shining just for us.

Before we can see His face we have a lot of serious living to do. As in 19:16, "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Have we come to the place in our lives that we want to know what we can do to have eternal life? Is something missing in our lives that will keep us out of the Glory Land? Can we say as Peter did in 19:27, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" Have we forsaken all? Is there something in our lives that we need to get rid of, or something we need to do that we aren't doing? If we are trying to hold some part of this worldly goods to us, we will not be able to have any part of 22:4, which is, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage." Will we behold this marriage feast? If we forsake all and follow Jesus, we surely will be at this feast.

In 23:34 Jesus tells us, "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes, and some of them ye shall kill

and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city." Looking back over the years, quite a few of the old prophets and men of God have been killed and our Saviour was crucified. By knowing these things we should have no doubt that the words we read in this Book of God are true. Are we as bad as old Jerusalem, when they stoned the prophets and killed them? Are we as 23:38, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." If we kill the prophets, stone the wise man and scoff at the scribes, then truly we can say, our house is desolate, because we do not have the Spirit of God in us. Until we turn to God, our Spiritual house will remain empty and desolate. The disciples who were with the Lord every day didn't feel this desolation of Spirit. They kept asking questions about the future life and in 24:25 the Lord said, "Behold, I have told you before."

Then (24:26), "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Should we need our Saviour to tell us more than once, of the things we need to do to have eternal life? He has set the way we are supposed to seek Him and it is plain that this is the only way He will accept us. Are we seeking Him in places we should not? Are we ready to accept Him on His terms, for there is no other way but His? (25:6), "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Yes! Behold! Look! See the Bridegroom. Oh! It will be wonderful in that day to see the Bridegroom coming in all His glory. If we behold, or keep our Lord in view, during our life here on earth, our lamps will be trimmed and burning bright, when the Lord does come.

After the Bridegroom has arrived and asks us what we have done with the talents that He has given us, will we be able to say (25:20) Behold, I have gained beside them other talents? Sometimes we ask, what are our talents. Each and every one has different talents, yet each have some of the same talents. We all have the talent to serve the Lord and watch for His coming.

Do we use our talents to the utmost, or do we slumber and sleep as the disciples did in the garden, when the Lord went to pray? Will He tell us (26:45) as He did them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand." Or will we hear Him say, (26:46) "behold, he is at hand that doth betray me." Are we betraying our Master? Or will we stand up and fight for Him as (26:51), "And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's and smote off his ear." Will we reach out with the Sword of Truth and smite the servant of Satan. Will we stand true to the Lord? Or will it

be with us as in 26:65 when the High Priest rent his clothes and said, "...behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy." Will we be a turncoat to our Saviour? Will we forsake Him?

After our Saviour had yielded up the Ghost, (27:51) "behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." This released us from the Old Law which had been given to Moses. We no longer need to make sacrifices, as our Lord has become the Supreme Sacrifice.

After our Jesus had been laid in the tomb, some of the faithful later went back to mourn His passing, (28:2), "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it." He told those who had come, to go quickly and, (28:7) tell the disciples, "behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him." "Now when they were going, (28:11), behold, some of the watch came into the city and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done." This was a very sad story they had to tell as the body of Christ had left the sepulcher and they didn't even know it was gone. Praise the almighty God of Heaven that it was gone, otherwise we wouldn't have a chance at life everlasting.

As you have read this, did you keep in view the thought that we need to keep our eyes upon the Lord Jesus, so we might have life eternal. This Book of Matthew tells a story that will never be equaled here on this earth.

In Christian Fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith

OBITUARY

EDWARD BLOCHER

Edward Joel Blocher was born August 25, 1887 near Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana, the son of David and Frances (Brubaker) Blocher.

When he was five years old, his mother passed away. She was thirty-one years old and left four little children. Ed was taken to the home of his uncle and aunt, Dave and Anna (Blocher) Johnson and lived with them for thirteen years. In 1895, they moved to North Dakota, where he spent his youth.

As a young man, he went to Wenatchee, Washington, where he was married to Lena Inks on March 22, 1914. To this union were born seven children. In 1931, they moved to Oregon, then in 1935 they came to Waterford, California, where they since resided and where they farmed.

Early in life, he was baptized into the Church of the Brethren. In

1930, he affiliated himself with the Dunkard Brethren Church and to this faith was steadfast till his death.

After an extended illness, he passed away at the home of his daughter, Anna Kinser, in Modesto, on March 6, 1977, at the age of 89 years, 6 months, and 9 days.

Ed is survived by his beloved wife of almost sixty-three years, Lena Blocher of Modesto; seven children, Arthur Blocher of Modesto, Vera Smith of Waterford, Paul Blocher of Union, Ohio, Hazel Decker and Anna Kinser, both of Modesto, Earl Blocher of Arcanum, Ohio, and Alice French of Modesto; also twenty grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and many relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Elizabeth Stump and Clara Blocher and one brother, Jesse Blocher, and his father in 1930.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 10, 1977, at the Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel by Elder Hayes Reed, assisted by Bro. Rudy Cover. Burial followed in Lakewood Memorial Gardens.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed another series of revival meetings, March 20 - April 3, with Bro. Dean St. John bringing us the messages. These meetings were well attended and Bro. St. John preached with power and with the Spirit. We were made to rejoice for the seven precious, young souls who came forward and gave their hearts to Christ. On Easter Sunday afternoon, a large group gathered at the stream to witness baptism administered to these dear ones. May they ever be true to the vows they have made.

We were glad to have Sister Nancy with us during these meetings. May the Lord richly bless Bro. and Sis. St. John as they labor for the Lord.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

THANK YOU

May God bless each one that sent cards, gifts and every prayer for Russell Smootz during his hospital stay and at home, too.

The Bro. Russell Smootz family

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to thank all the Brethren, Sisters and friends for the prayers, cards, visits and gifts while a patient in the hospital and also while convalescing at home. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Sister Emma K. Wise

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JUNE, 1977

CONSIDER — CONSUMED

Memory Verse, Matt. 7:3

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Wed. 1-Hos. 7:1-16

Thur. 2-Hag. 1:1-15

Fri. 3-Hag. 2:1-23

Sat. 4-Matt. 6:16-34

Memory Verse, Luke 12:24

Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Sun. 5-Matt. 7:1-29

Mon. 6-Mark 6:35-56

Tues. 7-Luke 12:13-40

Wed. 8-John 11:1-31

Thur. 9-John 11:32-57

Fri. 10-Acts 11:1-26

Sat. 11-Acts 12:1-25

Memory Verse, Gal. 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Sun. 12-Acts 15:1-21

Mon. 13-Rom. 4:1-25

Tues. 14-Gal. 6:1-18

Wed. 15-II Tim. 2:1-26

Thur. 16-Heb. 3:1-19

Fri. 17-Heb. 7:1-28

Sat. 18-Heb. 10:1-25

Memory Verse, Heb. 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Sun. 19-Heb. 12:1-29

Mon. 20-Heb. 13:1-25

Tues. 21-Gen. 19:12-29

Wed. 22-Gen. 41:25-46

Thur. 23-Ex. 3:1-22

Fri. 24-Ex. 15:1-27

Sat. 25-Ex. 32:1-24

Memory Verse, Gen. 19:15

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Sun. 26-Ex. 33:1-23

Mon. 27-Lev. 9:1-24

Tues. 28-Num. 11:1-30

Wed. 29-Num. 14:11-38

Thur. 30-Num. 17:1-13

Memory Verse, Heb. 12:3

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Ex. 33:3

Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiff-necked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

JUNE 1, 1977

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE RAPTURE

Some day soon, I hope, to go
To live with Jesus — He's told me so.
He's paid the passage in advance
I'll not be taking any chance.

No packing is needed for this great event
Our clothing is furnished one hundred per cent.
Perhaps all things are furnished there'll be no delay,
Perhaps He'll be coming this very day.

So let us be ready, He's coming in haste
And never a moment of time should we waste.
The Lord, He hath told us, His Son He hath sent
To help us get ready for this great event.

Sleeping ones to be raised in Glory Divine,
Living ones changed in a moment of time,
What a Glorious day we know it will be,
When we leave this old world, all that beauty to see.

—Orpha Nusbaum

102 years old, August 13, 1976

Selected from sermon by Bro. Roy Swihart
by Sister Elta K. Blythe

GOD AND THE WEATHER

One of the most frequent topics of conversation is the weather. There is always something about the weather that either delights or disgusts someone. The past few months have provided much "grist for the conversational mill". The Eastern United States suffered through a cold and snowy winter. Much of the Western United States has suffered from the lack of moisture. It appears the climate of most of the country is changing. Weather conditions differ from what has been rule.

We think of the weather as one of the most powerful forces in our lives. We depend on the sunshine, the rain and the wind. Sometimes we get too much of these necessary conditions, then we have droughts and floods, tornadoes and ice storms. We think of the weather as a friend until it rains out a picnic, snows shut the road or blows down a tree.

Where does our weather receive its power, whether for good or ill? As strong as weather is, there still must be One stronger who controls it. Yes, God controls the weather. He uses the weather along with other natural means to further His Spiritual purpose in dealing with men. The world, that believes that men are but the product of a chance-produced evolution, can only see the working of chance in the weather.

The children of God should see in the changes of climate, the storms and general weather conditions, the handiwork of God. His dealings with man and the world, even by the means of weather, should serve as a lesson. Why do conditions such as the current drought or near-drought come upon the land?

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

The first lesson taught by present conditions is that there is a lack of righteousness. God has always dealt with those who have chosen to live contrary to His Will. Not only has He prepared a place of punishment after this life for those who choose to follow Satan; He also deals with them in this life. The history of Israel, as recorded in the Old Testament, is full of His dealings with them because of one moral downfall after another. Many times He allowed them to be conquered by their heathen neighbors because of their contrariness, especially their idolatry. The world of today is an unholy, unchurched, unrighteous place and, worst of all, many who claim to be the children of God are involved in the world's style of living. God does not mete out punishment in a peevish way but is very long-suffering toward man. But a limit is reached and He unleashes His power against the forces of unrighteousness. The weather is one of His methods.

The second lesson would be that even among the children of God there is a lack of fasting and prayer. There are many prayers that are offered, but how far do they get? There is a lack of sacrifice to accompany those prayers. The personal sacrifice, that fasting speaks of, is needed to make prayers powerful. There have been prayers offered for a change in weather conditions, but without the repentance that fasting pictures, those conditions continue. Fasting can still be practiced today, although it is not popular. That is one of the reasons why it is needed as never before.

The third lesson is that there is a lack of thankfulness. Few today in the midst of plenty are thankful for what God has given them. There is a general lack of contentment. There is a continual striving to obtain more and more, which fails to bring contentment. Since the worldly have nothing good to look forward to beyond this life, they may as well try to accumulate goods in this world. But, what about the children of God, who have untold riches in store for them? God has been gracious to send showers in the midst of drought, but men are not thankful for them. On the contrary, they complain because there were not more. They fail to see their true position before God. They do not deserve the least of their blessings, let alone to be deserving of even more.

God may have other lessons for man in His direction of the weather. A lack of righteousness, a lack of fasting and prayer and a lack of thankfulness, even among the children of God, have brought harsh conditions, which can only be remedied by correcting what is wrong.

Because wickedness is rampant, you, who read these lines, may feel helpless to do anything about it. But God has always had His

remnant who were willing to live for Him. It is better to be a part of His remnant than to be a part of the world's majority. Can He depend on you? The conditions, even weather conditions, are awaiting your righteous living, your prayers, and your thankfulness.

A HALFWAY HOUSE

In this country, there are residences set up for people released from prison, where they can stay while they adjust to society again. These are called "halfway houses" and are intended to bridge the gap between confinement and freedom. But there's another sort of "halfway house", with many living in them. They are not bridges to freedom, nor to peace and happiness. Let's call it a "halfway house", a home which is not all God wants it to be.

What then is this "halfway house"? It is a home where one partner wants to serve God and the other does not. One has earthly goals in mind, while the other's eyes are set on Heaven and God's will. A home which only halfway belongs to God, with one partner, a believer, while the other is not, is truly a "halfway house". It can't be a home as God intended. There may be peace and love, generally speaking, but there must be both a natural and a spiritual harmony between husband and wife for a home to be at its best.

A Christian home is a "whole-way house", wholly dedicated to serving the Lord. This is what Joshua had. He said, "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Josh. 24:15. There apparently was complete agreement in his household that they all would serve the Lord and they weren't ashamed to let it be known.

In order to have a true home instead of just a "halfway house", it must be Christ-centered. When both partners put Christ first, they are much better qualified to carry out their duties as husband or wife and as parents. Whenever self comes first or you place your partner first instead of Christ, your values are not in the proper order and problems will arise. The Bible tells us what a home should be and only God can direct us so we can establish a true home.

Children in a "halfway house" often suffer more than the parents. They see two standards, with Mom's values different from Dad's. They are not able to tell right from wrong and may follow the wrong standard simply because it's there before them. With such a conflict, there is heartache for the parent who wants his or her children to serve the Lord. As long as you have a double standard before them, you will have such problems, for the children are influenced by both parents, whether right or wrong.

If you, a believer, chose to marry an unbeliever, you probably were not aware of the problems it would cause. You thought love could surmount all the difficulties and you could soon win your companion to the Lord. But for some reason, it just hasn't worked out that way. Now what can you do? The same Lord who said, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. . ." (II Cor. 6:14) also has said, "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" I Cor. 7:16. A "halfway house" is not a hopeless situation, if you will come to the Lord for help.

When two unbelievers are married and later one seeks the Lord, this sort of "halfway house" can really have problems. Life at its best will be difficult and sometimes the marriage breaks up simply because one has chosen to follow Jesus. Jesus must come first in a believer's life and this means our companions must come second. Values have changed and problems will arise, but if we truly love the Lord, even a family division will not turn us aside from serving Him.

If you want a Christian home and you are not yet married, seek God's will before you choose a companion. Don't get married first and then seek God's will for your life; your choice might be all wrong. Wait on the Lord and He will lead you to the one with whom you can establish a true home, the one you can love, respect and harmonize with as God intended. If you seek His will first, you won't end up with a "halfway house."

If you are already married and you have a "halfway house", bring your problem to the Lord now. Ask Him to take the mess you've made of your life, and make something worthwhile out of it. It won't be easy, but He can help you, if you will submit your will to His. And to you who know someone living in a "halfway house", pray for that one. Don't condemn! You don't live there and you don't know the pressure they are under. Maybe he or she should have known better, but that doesn't solve the problem. Neither does it encourage the one who is trying to serve the Lord. There is victory and success in Jesus and your prayers are needed to insure that success.

Going only halfway is a condition which affects more than just homes with a divided loyalty. People who claim to serve the Lord, yet only go halfway, are not what God wants them to be. He wants us all to live wholly for Him, not halfway. Whatever your circumstances, go all the way with God. Don't involve yourself in relationships which hinder you spiritually. Choose a whole-way life and God will give you a whole-way home, not just a "halfway house".

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SALVATION

This, dear Christian friend, is something everyone is looking for, but few will find. Do we as Christians understand this word, "salvation"? Will we know when we have salvation? Will we know here on this earth if we have salvation?

Through study, it seems that we can help others to find salvation and can feel assured that we have the salvation of our souls, but only through the Grace of God can we have salvation.

We can be assured of winning the prize of salvation, if we live a strict Christian life. But if we live a good life, we can only say we are trying for salvation. We have to work to keep our soul from the danger of Satan, work to keep it from difficulty and hope we have saved it, from the consequence of sin, in the life after death.

We find at the start of time, (Gen. 3:15) salvation was promised to Adam. God said He would put enmity between woman and Satan. This is the promise of His Son coming to give His life that we might have life everlasting. Studying further, we find salvation was promised to Abraham; that same salvation was revealed to the prophets. It is longed for by the saints. Do we desire this good work of God? Do our lives show our Saviour that we want this salvation?

Salvation was promised to the Gentiles back in the time of the Prophet Isaiah, not just after our Saviour came and died on the cross. Salvation was extended to the Gentiles in Acts 28:28 for them to accept, but God had promised it long before this. We find it was proclaimed to Israel, in Zech. 9:9 and rejected by them in Acts 13:26-46.

It is preached through the Gospel. Eph. 1:13 says, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation." Yes, Brothers and Sisters, it tells us in Romans 13 that the day of salvation is drawing nearer each and every day. We find the only way we can have a part in that day of salvation is through confession, which leads to repentance. If we have these two, we then will come to faith, which is also necessary for regeneration of our soul through baptism.

Yes, dear ones, Paul tells us in II Tim. 3:15, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Isn't it wonderful that our Saviour can give us this salvation? He will if only we have faith and follow His teachings. For he says, Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Not only does He tell us

His burden is light, He gives us assurance that salvation is ours, for He says, "Ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Salvation is within easy reach of every one who is interested. All Christians should press on, for the day of salvation is at hand.

In Christian fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith

FEAR

Fear is often mentioned in the Scriptures. It is something that affects almost everyone. Its emotional awareness is expressed many times and in many ways. When fear comes upon us, we become troubled and become afraid. Many times we are afraid of the after-effects that might come from it.

There are many, who are spoken of in the Bible, who were emotionally disturbed and made afraid. The king Belshazzar feared greatly, when he saw a man's handwriting on the wall. The text says, "... his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another." He cried for the Astrologers, the Chaldeans and the soothsayers, to interpret the writings. Dan. 5:6-7. In plain words, he did not know the reason for the writing he saw and he was afraid of what the outcome of it might be. Perhaps he felt guilty because of taking the golden and silver vessels from the temple.

Fear disturbs the mind and it affects the whole body. Adam and Eve were afraid, when they heard the voice of God in the Garden of Eden. They hid themselves, for God called to Adam, "Where art thou?" Adam said, "I heard thy voice . . . and I was afraid, because I was naked." He was also ashamed. When sin comes upon those who disobey, it causes shame. From this, sin and shame came upon the whole human family.

At the time when Jesus was laid in the tomb, the keepers were to guard the place where Jesus lay. But at the appearing of the angel, the keepers did fear and became as dead men. The brightness was like lightning, as white as snow.

The Apostle Paul was onboard a ship on the voyage to Rome as a prisoner. A severe storm arose. The Apostle advised the master of the ship not to sail further because the season was past for sailing, but the master of the ship went on and there was much loss and damage done to the ship. But Paul told the ones who were sailing with him, "Be of good cheer . . . for there stood by me . . . the angel of God . . . saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar." God can calm all fears by His speaking of comfort and good will to those who trust in Him.

I suppose each one has fear, or anxious thoughts, that causes him lots of trouble and causes him to become afraid. Jesus says, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. God will always reward those who trust Him. The Psalmist says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Ps. 23:4.

The Apostle Paul wrote much concerning his interest for the Churches. Even though he suffered many trials and persecutions that befell him, he says, ". . . Without were fightings, within were fears." II Cor. 7:5. Despite all the good he did, there was much opposition, but this did not stop him or make him afraid.

These, whom we have pointed out, lived long ago and trusted in God. We have the same God, now, in our day, as they did long ago. I John 4:18, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

MY JESUS I LOVE

I so often think of this verse, "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8. It seems that today, it is hard to reach lost souls. It is very difficult to communicate with them as they seem to cling to the pleasures, here. Some of them think if they do good to others and help them, when in need, that is all they have to do to gain Eternal Life.

You can tell them of the joy you have in following Jesus, whom you love. But to those who have never experienced that joy, it seems a hard task, but we must never give up. Press onward, dear ones. We must never stop. We must go forth and work till Jesus calls us Home. Let us live close to the Master, then they can see the joy we as Christians have and they, too, will want to serve Him.

Today we hear of so many things that are good, but we really don't know unless we try them. It is the same way in the Spiritual life. One must taste and see that the Lord is good. No one knows the joy we have in serving Jesus until he starts serving Him. If you go on a plane it is hard to tell others how you feel when the plane takes off. They have to experience it to know. If they would come to Christ they, too, would experience that great joy, a child of God has.

I am sure if you do, you will say this is real joy. "Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous." Prov

3:31-32. Dear ones, won't you accept the way of the Lord and live for Him? He is so good. He wants to have you as His child. I am sure, like David, you will see that the Lord is good.

Sister E. M. Alltus

WHY TRINE IMMERSION?

This is an important question. Does the Great Commission teach trine immersion? Our eternal salvation depends upon our obeying "... from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Rom. 6:17.

1. Our first reason for trine immersion is based upon the meaning of the word, "baptize". This word in the Greek, means "to dip repeatedly," according to Thayer's Greek Lexicon. It is the plural form of the verb; "bapto" is the singular form. Had the Saviour meant for baptism to be administered by one action, it stands to reason that He would have used the singular form of the verb. The single form of the verb, never means the plural, nor the plural the singular. "Baptizo" is used seventy-three times in the New Testament. It is translated twice "wash", "baptist" fifteen times, "baptise" twenty-three times, "baptized" forty-nine times, "baptizing" four times, and is never translated "dip." The word "bapto", is used three times in the Greek and is translated "dip." Luke 16:24, John 13:26, Rev. 19:13. Therefore, since the word "baptizo" means "to dip repeatedly", the number of actions is found in the Great Commission.

2. Our second reason for trine immersion is the fact that the Great Commission teaches three immersions. First, the Commission is an ellipical sentence. That is: there are words left out to shorten the sentence, but it doesn't take away from the meaning. An example is found in Acts 7:36, "He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years." Who will deny that the words, "he had shewed wonders and signs", are not also understood in the phrases, "in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness". Likewise, the word, "name" is understood in all three phrases in the Great Commission, making it read, "in the name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Ghost." Also in the Great Commission there are three definite articles, one before each name, showing that immersion is to be into each name of the Godhead

3. The third reason we give for trine immersion is the fact that trine immersion can be traced back to within less than one hundred years of the last Apostle. Also, the origin of every other mode of

baptism in use today, can be found this side of the Apostles. No one will deny that Jesus commanded one form of baptizing, and that He placed His law behind this one baptism. This law, Matt. 28:19, demands baptism into each separate name of the Trinity. Trine baptism is the only form of baptism recognized by the General Church during the first twelve centuries. No one has ever found its origin this side of Christ. If so, why? Trine immersion is the only mode ever practiced by the Greek and the oriental churches. Consider these facts and accept the truth.

Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

VICTORY OF THE MIND

The Apostel Paul told Timothy, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Tim. 1:7. More than this, in I Cor. 2:16b, we find this positive declaration, "But we have the mind of Christ."

This is the day when Satan is assailing the minds of the children of God. He desires to turn us away from God, to hinder or limit the soul from a victorious walk in Christ, who is our Life. We must know from what we are saved, and unto what we are saved. This knowledge will lead to an intelligent faith.

A most blessed statement is found in Eph. 4:23, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." "Renewed" means to make over, as good as new, to give new life, to commence again. Paul besought the Romans, "... be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2. As the result of the Fall, the human mind is imperfect, its powers have become weak, impaired, diverted. In fact, all is out of order, and the human mind becomes the ground of the Devil's working.

The Apostle, in his epistles to the various churches, makes these statements: "carnal mind", "vanity of the mind", "men of corrupt minds", "mind earthly things". Mind and heart are often used in the Scriptures synonymously. Of man, Prov. 23:7 states, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Our thoughts determine the real quality of our lives and generally determine action as well.

The mind in its fallen state belongs to the "Old Creation" — the old man, which is corrupt. This mind cannot be changed, made new or transformed by an effort of our own. How did God deal with this? Only one way expresses this. That is "CRUCIFIXION". Therefore, the first step for us regarding the old mind is to yield it definitely to

the Cross. The full beauty and meaning of Calvary leaves no question as to the prayer answered, the need met, and the imparting of the "new mind", even the "mind of Christ." We see the "new mind" belongs to the "new man", the new creature, and is a fruit of the Resurrected Life.

When we meditate on the "new mind", the "mind of Christ", we discover when Paul wrote to the saints at Philippi, he urged, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil.2:5. The mind is not destroyed, but the old process is. We really mean there are new mental processes. The born again Christian has His Righteousness, His Holiness, His Peace, His Joy, and He even wants us to have His Mind.

This new mind is to be occupied by Christ Himself. When Christ possesses the mind, His will is being accomplished and we are occupied with that which is of Him. "... Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

To be continued
Brother Ray S. Shank

THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S VEILING AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

MERLE RUTH

The Christian Woman's Veiling is more than a denominational practice. It is a keystone of the whole doctrine of nonconformity. Without it, headship is ignored and sex distinction is blurred.

This Scriptural teaching must have frequent reference to keep the rising generation informed. We do not seek direction for its use in etiquette books nor even in church handbooks. We receive direction from I Corinthians 11:1-16.

Verse 1 is a bridge verse.

In verse 2, Paul praises them for keeping the ordinances.

But, the first word in verse 3, introduces contrast. Thus, Paul was led to correct rather than command.

This teaching is on an eternally existing arrangement. It reveals the line of responsibility that God has said shall exist, the order of headship — God, Christ, man, woman.

The man-woman relationship is compared to the God-Christ relationship. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" and I do always those things that please him." If the God-Christ order is needed,

how much more the man-woman order.

The greatest contribution is made when we remain in the sphere intended.

There are symbols that teach the man-woman order. One is natural (the hair); the other is the visible evidence of both accepting that order (veil on the woman and absence of veil on the man).

Covered is a translation of a Greek word which means "veiled".

Misuse of the ordinance reveals rejection of one's proper subjection and brings shame. It is strongly implied that no one should challenge that it is a shame. The Greek says, "Since it is a shame." For a woman to be shorn or shaven is a shame. The non-wearing of the covering is especially a shame.

The leadership arrangement dates back to the Creation, when God created man to be His representative.

Verses 8 and 9 reveal that this headship arrangement was in the mind of God at the Creation. The reason was that man was not created for the woman but the woman for the man. Paul brings these truths over to the New Testament to substantiate the teaching he was giving. Redemption raised both man and woman, but it did not change their respective spheres or roles.

"Because of the angels" (verse 10). Angels are depicted in the Bible as constant observers of mankind. The covering is a sign to angels that the woman is in subjection to rightful authority, and that makes her eligible for the protection and accompaniment of angels.

Verses 11 and 12 show that man cannot be proud of his position and that man and woman have need for each other. The difference between man and woman is purely functional, but their position in regards to salvation is the same.

It is inferred that the wearing of the covering was very generally practiced then, and it should make us aware of how far man has morally declined.

There is a built-in quality that enforces short hair for men and long hair for woman.

Hair is mentioned as a covering but not as the covering recommended in the previous verses. Two different Greek words are used for covered. One means special covering. The other means the natural hair covering. If hair were the only covering mentioned, as some believe, what would you remove if the hair were already removed? (verse 6).

Verse 16. It would be strange indeed, to challenge a custom so universal at this time. Paul also said that he taught the same in other churches. His verbal teaching was the same as his written teaching, which accounts for the absence of this teaching in other letters. It suggests that this ordinance must have been observed by the other

churches.

No precise specifications are given for this covering, but (1) it must be a special one; (2) it is a symbol and a covering; and (3) since it is compared to the natural covering, the natural should be an example for the special.

Any arrangement of hair must be such that the hair can be easily covered. If the hair is prominent and not the veil, the woman is not properly veiled.

The church should give specifications for uniformity to safeguard the breakdown of a special covering versus a protective covering.

The Scriptures nowhere suggest that a special veiling is for worship only. Verse 18: Paul mentions a problem they had when they came together (misuse of Communion); so it strongly infers that the former problem (misuse of veiling) was not just for public worship.

"Prayer veiling" and "devotional veiling" are wrong concepts because the Christian woman is to be constantly veiled. The main thrust of I Corinthians 11:1-16 is not that you wear a covering for praying or prophesying but rather that you wear a covering because you are a woman.

Liberty in Christ is not a cancellation of the order of headship.

If the last part of the chapter (Communion) is not restricted to that certain era (as some restrict the veiling), how can the forepart of the chapter be meant only for that time? It cannot honestly be interpreted that way.

Nowhere in this passage is it mentioned that the woman should wear this special covering to distinguish her from the whores of that time, as some would teach. It probably did, but that was not the reason for the covering.

Hopefully, our wearing of the covering for sisters signifies our acceptance of our place in God's order and commands.

Selected from The Christian Contender
by Brother Willard Beam



It's a mighty good thing while you're
running life's race,
Just to pause as you go
and come face to face
With your conscience, ask it
a question or two;
For its right you should know
what your life meaneth to you.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

NINE HUNDRED CHARIOTS OF IRON!

JUDGES 4

There were many judges in Israel. Over and over, Israel would sin and serve the idols of their enemies. Then God would deliver them. A king of Canaan named Jabin had been allowed by God to overcome Israel. He was a mighty king. He had a captain over his armies named Sisera. Sisera had nine hundred chariots of iron. For twenty years he oppressed the children of Israel.

Deborah was a woman who prophesied. God had given her the ability to know things that would happen in the future. She was a judge of Israel at that time. One day she called a young man named Barak and said, "The Lord has commanded you to go to Mt. Tabor and to take with you ten thousand men. There you will come to the river Kishon and you will meet Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, and God will deliver them into your hand."

And Barak said, "If you go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, then I will not go."

And Deborah said, "I will surely go with thee."

So Barak gathered his ten thousand men and went towards Mt. Tabor and Deborah went with him. It was told Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, that Barak and his men had gone up to Mt. Tabor. Sisera's job was to stop any rebellion that might take place so he took his nine hundred chariots of iron and went after Barak. In order to get there he had to cross the river Kishon. The Bible doesn't tell us all about this battle but it does say that the Lord discomfited Sisera and all his chariots and all his hosts. The picture we get is that while Sisera was crossing the river, Barak and his ten thousand met him. Chariots of iron are heavy. The place where they crossed would have to be shallow and probably quite wide and also muddy. The chariots of iron were made with knives that stuck out from their hubs that literally mowed men down as they tore through an army. But chariots of iron don't work too well in mud — they bog down. Can't you just see the horses being whipped by their drivers and then as Barak and his men attacked, the drivers fled for their lives. They were utterly helpless.

So Barak pursued after the chariots and all the army of Sisera fell by the sword and there was not a man left. The nine hundred chariots of iron, which had seemed so terrible, amounted to nothing when God took over.

Why did Barak win the battle? Because he did exactly what God told him to do. If we obey God's Word, we can also win the battles of life and be overcomers of sin and Satan.

Brother Rudy Cover

MARRIAGE

SMOOTZ — EBERLY

Sis. Sandra Jean Smootz, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Russell Smootz of New Creek, West Virginia and Bro. Roy Allen Eberly, son of Bro. and Sis. Allen Eberly of Ephrata, Pennsylvania were united in marriage March 12, 1977 at the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, Ridge, West Virginia.

Bro. Allen Eberly performed the ceremony after a sermon by Bro. Eugene Kauffman. The couple will make their home at R.D. 2, East Earl, Pennsylvania 17519.

NEW ITEMS

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the cards, gifts and thoughtfulness on my sixtieth birthday. I appreciate being remembered. I received over seventy cards. May God bless each of you for being so good to me.

Sister Helen Sweitzer

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all my Brethren, Sisters and friends for the prayers, cards, visits and other acts of kindness in remembering me during my recent operation and recovery at the Ephrata Community Hospital.

Special thanks to the Ministers and Deacons for their visits and concern. May the Lord richly bless each one.

Sister Ada G. Mohler



MY NEIGHBOR'S BIBLE

I am my neighbor's Bible
He reads me when we meet;
Today he reads me in my home,
Tomorrow in the street.
He may be relative or friend,
Or slight acquaintance be;
He may not even know my name,
Yet he is reading me.

—Defender

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GLORYING IN THE CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

— Isaac Watts

THE MISSING LINK

Those who teach the theory of evolution constantly speak of a link that is missing. They do not have the link, their theory demands, between animal and man. Their search for this missing link, half animal, half man, has given rise to many deceptions and pranks. The link, that cannot be found, has been reported to have been found many times, in many places. Later the supposed link turns out to be the bones of some animal buried within the past century. Either their missing link was the result of deception or someone's playful prank. Since there was no evolution from animal to man there is no missing link. God created the various species of animals. He also created man to have dominion over His earlier creation.

Those who seek the missing link are denying God. If God was not the creator of this world and its inhabitants, then neither can He be the sustainer or the Saviour of mankind. To deny the work that God has done, and then revealed to us through His Word, is to deny Him and His Word. Yet those who seek the nonexistent missing link continue their futile search rather than believe God. Their missing link is more than just missing, it never existed.

There are other kinds of missing links besides the evolutionist's problem. A twenty foot log chain would be of little value if the middle link were taken out. It then would be but two ten foot chains lacking hooks on two ends. All the links are necessary for the chain to be useful and as long as we wish. A missing or weak link makes the whole chain useless to us.

Many people today have a lack in their lives. A link is missing. They know something is missing but they cannot identify what it is.

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

They even go to Church and try to do good, yet they are frustrated. The missing link in their lives is Jesus Christ.

Their goodness and their religion is only self-motivated so it lacks the power needed to produce a life dedicated to Him. Their efforts, because of their source, are bound to fail, which produces even greater frustration. The log chain lacking a link is useless, so is a life that is missing its link with God.

God created man, along with everything else, for a purpose. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev. 4:11. His purpose was to be pleased. Just as the potter makes his pots so they will please him, so God created man. But man has gotten a long way from His intended purpose. He needs a link with God so he can please Him once more. That link is God's Son, Jesus Christ. God was so intent on receiving pleasure from His creation that He even sent His Son as propitiation for the offending sin that interrupted that pleasure. Yet many try to please Him without regard to what He has revealed that pleases Him.

Sin displeases God and separates man from Him. Christ is the only way that man has of again pleasing God. Jesus said, "I am the way, and truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Without dealing with the problem of separating sin, man has no hope of pleasing God. Once the atonement has been accepted, there is still a life that has to be lived in accordance with His Will in order to enlist His pleasure upon our activities. These daily activities must be carried out in the power of Christ. A life lived away from the commands of God will be a frustrated life since it will not be a God-pleasing life.

Paul had found the link that many miss. "I can do all things please God. Man seeks to please the one whom he loves. Because of the tremendous price God has paid for the reconciliation of man to Himself, man should have a very deep love for God. Man's expression of that love is in the keeping of His commandments. This is pleasing to God. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21.

Man's missing link is Jesus Christ. Without Him life becomes a failure and frustration. The end for many is suicide, drunkenness, divorce and prodigal living, when the all-important link is missing.

Is your life uneasy and frustrated? Does your life please God? Does the commands of His Word mean life and happiness to you? If not, then you need the missing link. You need Jesus Christ as your Saviour. "Ye must be born again."

VICTORY OF THE MIND

PART 2

The new mind is hungry and thirsty. The Holy Spirit feeds us, at first with the "milk of the Word", leading us on to the "strong meat", as we grow in grace and come to full maturity.

"And the Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your mearts and minds through Jesus Christ." Phil. 4:7. Notice, the new mind, in Christ Jesus, is protected, is sheltered, by "Peace of God." This "sound mind" cries out, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psa. 139:23-24.

The new mind is able to resist the old. It will not compromise but simply resists and refuses. The secret of victory is instantly refusing that which is not from God. ". . . Try the spirits whether they are of God." I John 4:1. Let us learn more and more the ability of the New Mind in resisting the darts of the Devil, by understanding his "devices" and "wiles" and by keeping these minds pure, clean and free in Christ Jesus. Wrong thoughts may come to us, but if we instantly refuse them we do not sin. We cannot expect the Lord to deliver us from that which we hold to with tenacity, which we love, cherish and nourish.

The new mind claims victory over all tumult of thought, through the Cross of Calvary and rests not only in the "Peace of God", but is controlled by the "God of Peace". Do we depend upon his Mind, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom all fullness dwells?

We have considered the mind as it was and as it now is in the "new creation" in Christ Jesus. Read Mark 5:15. See the man sitting at the feet of Jesus, "clothed and in his right mind." What a change Jesus always makes. Do we know from personal experience of this transformation? Definite assurance is found in Isa. 26:3-4, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."

Brother Ray S. Shank



He who has a thousand friends
has not a friend to spare,
And he who has one enemy
will meet him everywhere.

WALKING WITH HIM

If we walk with the Lord
In the light of His word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
If we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

We should be where we can put in practice the teachings, or doctrines, of the New Testament and the teachings of Christ to the early Church.

Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Paul says, "But Christ liveth in me." If we have given ourselves over to God through faith, repentance and baptism, we are fortified against Satan and sin. Then we can go on rejoicing in the Lord.

Christ said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Therefore, let us all work together for Christ and the Church.

Brother Walter Pease
Quinter, Kansas 67752

GREAT

Do we ever stop and think of our Christian life as being great? Do we feel that we are someone great because we profess to be a Christian? If we are living a Christian life it can be great. We have a God in Heaven, who is the GREATEST. When we are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, we have a great hope of everlasting life.

We look to that great Prophet, that is told of in Luke 7:16, for our every day existence. Do we glorify God that we have this great Prophet to look to for salvation?

hold fast to our professions. We know what the priests were for, here on this earth. But we need not use them, for our Priest is on High. Our High Priest has left us a plan, all we need do is work and trust in our High Priest.

Luke 1:32-33 and Rev. 11:17 tell us we have a great king. Do we look upon Jesus as a king? Since we have no king in this country, can we actually comprehend what it is to serve a king? Our Jesus is the King of Kings. We can revel in the fact, He rules the universe. Do we humble ourselves and bow to the power of the Almighty King? Do we praise Him as our King of Kings? Even though our Precious Saviour is the King of Kings, we find that He is still a kind and tender Shepherd. There are many scriptures pointing to Him as the Shepherd. Heb. 13:20 calls Him, "that great shepherd of the sheep." If we will but listen to His voice and heed His words, He will lead us to that Glory Land. It doesn't take a great man to follow the Shepherd, for great men are not always wise. Job 32:9. Nor are wise men always great.

If we will follow the voice of the Master, it tells in Matt. 5:12, we will have a great reward in the Hereafter. We must have as great a faith as the woman who touched the hem of His garment to be healed and as the woman, who in Matt. 15:21-28 asked that her daughter be healed and the devil be cast out of her.

When we listen to the voice of the Master, it gives us great joy to serve Him in all truth. We need this joy and a great faith, because Satan gives us great trials to try our faith. We can have great joy in overcoming Satan, as we serve our Master.

When we go forth to serve our Master, we should do so with great zeal. True greatness depends upon our work for God and God's gentleness and grace towards us.

We can be great Christians or we can be something less. But we should strive to be great in our love, faith, and zeal so we can share in the great joy of Heaven, when we shall all bow to the Great King.

In Christian love
Brother Orvis Smith

THE TRAPPER

This is a sermon preached by Bro. Fred Pifer during the Revival at the Pleasant Home Church, Ceres, California.

Acts 5:1-11, "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the Apostle's feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, and wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the Church, and upon as many as heard these things."

We read in Acts 4:32, "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." Verse 34, "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold."

Ananias and Sapphira had made a commitment too, but they kept back part of what they had promised. It was the love of money that destroyed Ananias and Sapphira. It was a trap of the devil. Peter asked, "Why hast thou allowed Satan to deceive you?"

There are many traps. Habits are traps. I once saw on a sign a bottle with the figure of a man trapped inside. Drinking liquor is a trap. Smoking is another habit that is a trap.

Once when I was studying I heard a "SNAP!" The mouse had desired the cheese. It was against his better interest, but he crept a little closer and was caught. A trap is designed to deceive. Satan desires to trap us. He will deceive in any way he can. Why do we allow him to get the better of us? Our parents warn us of the dangers of the world, but we do not heed their warning.

Habits are traps, easy to get into, but hard to escape from. Sometimes they are not so obvious. They start with little things, rebellion against authority, but they lead to stealing, shop-lifting and even broken homes. David fell for one of Satan's traps: the lust of the flesh, and that led to murder.

Another trap, Satan comes up with, is a lot of reasons why we should not accept Christ and the Church. He tries to tell us it is too narrow a way and we cannot live it. "Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:14. What is wrong with narrow? When I take a plane and fly, I am glad the pilot uses the runway. The runway is

narrow, but it is for taking off and landing, so I am glad the pilot does not choose some other way. The runway is the right way. What is truth? Two plus two equals four, that is the true answer. Many answers could be given but that is the only right one. Jesus says, "My Word is Truth."

Satan tried to trap Jesus. Three times he tried, but Jesus used Scripture to side-step the trap. The cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches can trap us. Beware, lest in our weakness we fall.

It is a terrible thing to be trapped. When I was a boy, I did some muskrat trapping. One day I saw a terrible thing. The trap was sprung and there was a little foot. The muskrat had chewed off his foot to get free. How cruel! you think, but Satan is cruel, too. He's out to get you. Even if you escape, there will be scars, if you yield to any of his devices. But, I found a sadder thing yet, when I next checked my traps: a muskrat with three feet. Even though he had been so maimed, still he was lured back to the trap.

Another thing Satan will tell us is, there are hypocrites in the Church. But that is no excuse. There always have been. That's a trap of the devil to keep you out of the Church. If the daily newspaper had an article saying that there was counterfeit money being circulated, you wouldn't burn all your money, would you?

Do you understand how electricity lights this building? I don't. But we don't walk through the night in darkness because we don't understand electricity. How foolish to walk in Spiritual darkness because we don't understand all the Bible tells us. When we leave behind the things of the world we then understand Spiritual things. The Psalmist David says, "The entrance of thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalms 119:130.

We must remember that Satan is already a defeated foe. He is a fallen angel. Don't let him trap you. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The things of this world do not satisfy. The devil wants us to think we have to give up too much. We do. We give up worry, mental trials and minds boggled by the wrong life. But we find peace, contentment and life more abundant. John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." If I had a million dollars I would have an abundance, but if I had one hundred million dollars it would be exceedingly abundant. The life of Christ is exceedingly abundant.

There is a false security in thinking there is time enough yet; Death is coming. Don't depart this life in Satan's trap. Never put

off till tomorrow what you should do today. Tomorrow may never come.

To trap a fox I must be smarter than a fox. I must be smarter than the things of this world or Satan will trap me. God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear, but will provide a way of escape. We should profit by the scriptures. Samson had a trap set for him. Delilah kept on till she found his weakness. His life was destroyed by the trap. Satan knows where our weaknesses are. Do we ever see how close we can get to the devil without letting him catch us? It's like a spider-web catching a fly. Webs are traps. They look so fragile, but oh! how they bind. Don't fall. Be steadfast in the Lord. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." II Cor. 2:11.

THE TRAPPER

The silence was broken by the tell-tale SNAP,
A mouse had been fooled when lured to the trap.
Men make these devices and sometimes it's sad,
Cause those which are taken are ignorant of bad.
But when men are blinded, it's the devil who's cruel,
The soul he is seeking; the trap is his tool.

And Satan, my friend, is the Trapper.

The Bible speaks plainly, of that dragon and snake,
He and his followers will burn in the Lake.
And so we must hasten the warning to tell,
Beware of his snares that lead men to Hell.
So on with the Helmet and have your feet shod
With the Word, and take the whole armour of God.

And escape the grasp of the Trapper.

Don't do as poor Esau, who gave all away
For a mess of pottage that lasted a day.
Or Cain who was jealous and made Abel die,
Or the rich man who refused to hear Lazarus' cry.
Others for pride and silver or mirth,
Forfeited Heaven and things of real worth - - -

Giving in to the tricks of the Trapper.

Remember the faithful in days past who stood
For that which was truth and holy and good,
Like Moses who chose with God's people to stand,
Instead of the treasures of palace and land.
The scoffers of Noah were more than a few,
But he finished the Ark and they came two by two,
Obeying God, instead of the Trapper.

Time and space hinders all to be told
Of David, the Shepherd and Daniel, the Bold,
Of James and John and the Marys, three,
And Zaccheus, small, who climbed up the tree.
Satan desires you, like Peter of old,
To sift you like wheat and add to his fold;
But Peter was victorious and you can be, too.
Christ brought the Way, but it's all up to you.
So just look to Jesus and give Him your hand,
He'll help you to conquer as none other can,
The perilous pits of the Trapper.

— Bro. Fred Pifer

Three souls made their choice for Jesus. One young Brother expressed the minds of all of us when he said, "I have enjoyed the sermons of the Revival Meeting so much, and I want Bro. Pifer to know he is welcome to come back."

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave., Waterford, Calif. 95386

THE ROSE

It is only a tiny rosebud . . .
A flower of God's design.
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I . . .
The flower God opens sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.
If I cannot unfold the rosebud
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?
So . . . I'll trust in Him for His leading
Each moment of every day,
And I'll look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.
For the pathway that lies before me
My heavenly Father knows . . .
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose.

— Author Unknown
Selected by Sister Bertha Dorsey

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

I AM LEAST IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

JUDGES 6:1-24

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were enemies of Israel. They destroyed their crops and stole their cattle and sheep, until the people were almost starved out. Israel had to live in dens and caves in the mountains. After seven years, Israel was desperate and they cried unto the Lord for help.

Gideon was a young man of Israel of the tribe of Manasseh. He was threshing wheat by a winepress to hide it from the Midianites. I suppose he brought a few bundles of wheat from the field at a time and threshed them. A winepress wasn't the place for threshing wheat, so the Midianites would not suspect what he was doing. While Gideon was threshing wheat, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him and said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour." And Gideon replied, "If the Lord is with us why is all this befallen us? But now the Lord has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

Gideon was a good man and understood how God had saved Israel many times and brought them out of Egypt. The angel said that Gideon was to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. He was an humble man and said, "Oh, my Lord, how can I save Israel? My family is poor and I am the least in my father's house." And the angel said, "Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites."

Gideon wanted nothing more than to see the Midianites defeated. He was fed-up with their stealing cattle and burning crops. He knew the Midianites were strong and could only be defeated with the Lord's help. So Gideon asked the angel for a sign. He asked the angel to wait till he returned and came back with meat and broth and some cakes made from unleavened flour, then he presented it unto the angel. And the angel of God said, "Take the flesh and cakes and lay them upon this rock and pour out the broth," and Gideon did so. Then the angel took the staff that was in his hand and touched the flesh and cakes with the end of the staff and there rose up a fire out of the rock and burned up the offering that Gideon had brought. And the angel vanished from his sight.

When Gideon realized he had been talking to an angel he was frightened and prayed to God and said, "Alas, O Lord God, for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face." And the Lord answered Gideon, "Fear not, thou shalt not die." And Gideon built

an altar in that place unto the Lord.

God chose Gideon to be a leader of Israel because he was a sincere and humble man. Moses was a meek man and so was Jesus. God loves us when we don't think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. When we are weak in our own sight, God can use us to do great things for Him.

Brother Rudy Cover

LIVING TODAY, PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19. Paul, after his conversion, always kept his eyes on things above, preparing the way for his home in Heaven. He loved the Dear Lord, spending hours and hours of his time labouring to bring others to Christ. He was fighting the good fight of faith, always keeping the future in mind, preparing for that Heavenly home, always thinking of the way, or the path, in which his feet were following. He loved the Lord, praying always for strength from above. He knew there was an Eternal Inheritance for the faithful.

Dear sinner, unless you live and work for the Master, you will have no claim. But if each of us truly loves Him, the Divine Treasure House will unlock for you. God's eternal riches will someday be yours. We don't have to worry if we belong to Christ, for we are "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." How empty would our lives be if we made no preparations for a life hereafter, no hope for that Eternal Home.

I am sure none of us want to miss that home in Heaven. So now is the time to start. No one knows how long it will be till we are called to leave this old, clay body. We all want to be ready when Jesus calls. Give him your heart. The go out and labour, what short time you have, for the advancing of His Church. Help the lost to come to know Him, so when you leave, you will not go empty handed. You can know you have been able to help one dear soul. See the better way so you will be able to have a home in Heaven.

Sister E. M. Alltus

MEN'S LIB

"What is men's lib?" you ask. Let's think about women's lib first, which we've all heard alot about. Women in this movement are seeking to be free from limits placed on them. They no longer want to stick to the primary role of wife and mother, but, as they say, they want to be free, to have equal rights and so forth. Some of this

possibly is good, but much is not. In some areas, they are losing more freedom than is gained, then they are under a bondage of another sort.

Real liberty is in Christ, doing His will whenever and wherever He directs. Real liberty is being free from the power of sin and being free to live for the Lord. It is not freedom from responsibility. Many women have missed the point entirely and are searching for liberty in the wrong way. Now, what does this have to do with men? Have they not forsaken their primary role as husband and father and are now "liberated" from the responsibility? Have they not forsaken the liberty which is in Christ?

Look around a little and see what really has happened. You will find men who want their wives to work and support the family so they don't have to. You will find men who expect their wives to work so they can lavish themselves with a new car, a new boat, or a vacation with the "boys". Men are leaving spiritual responsibilities up to their wives and go golfing, or some such, while Mom takes the children to Sunday School and Church. Some men come and go as they please and think that their wives shouldn't complain or question where they spend their time.

So often, we see men treating their wives and children with little or no respect. They are unkind and inconsiderate of their families. They have forgotten what God has said. Family life in general has deteriorated and we can't entirely blame the men or the women, but let's consider what God has said a husband and father is to do. Do you know anyone who has been "liberated" from these responsibilities?

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Gen. 2:24. His first responsibility is to his wife in establishing a home with her. He shouldn't expect his parents (or hers) to make room for them in their home. "Yea, also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home . . ." Hab. 2:5a. The home needs to be properly kept and tended to, or there won't be any. Men have a responsibility at home, and they are not free to drink and carouse anymore than a woman is.

"Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it." Eph. 5:25. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." Eph. 5:28. Husbands are to have a special love for their wives, and if they have this love, they will show it. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Pet. 3:7. A husband should

honor his wife and not take advantage of her dependency on him, lest it hinder his prayers, a vital link to God.

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. Training the children properly is the duty of the father, as well as the mother. The training given in childhood has a lasting effect, and the father's example, be it good or bad, is a part of his training. God corrects us in love and a father should do the same with his children.

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Tim. 5:8. "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life." John 6:27a. There are fathers who won't provide for their families, but any man who understands God's will for his life will want to provide for his own, both naturally and spiritually. With his eyes on Christ, he will gladly take his responsibility rather than seek to be liberated from it.

An angry, inconsiderate or slothful man may feel liberated and free, but this does not please God. A man may not love his wife or care what his children do, but this does not liberate him from his responsibilities. The Lord expects alot of every father. Do you live up to His expectations, or have you become a part of "men's lib?"

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

NEW ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Lovefeast seivces were held April 24, at the Bethel Congregation. Visiting ministers with us during the day were Elder Allen Eberly and Bro. Jack Snyder. In the evening approximately one hundred forty-five surrounded the tables with Bro. Snyder officiating.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, the Ridge Congregation is planning Revival Meetings, July 3 through July 10. Elder Allen Eberly of Ephrata, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

Lovefeast services will be held Saturday evening, July 9.

We invite all who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Irene Harris, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY

July 3 — The Vengeance of the Lord; the Man of Sin Revealed. II Thess. 1:1-12; 2:1-17.

July 10 — "Be Not Weary in Well Doing." II Thess. 3:1-18.

July 17 — "I Am Alive For Evermore." Rev. 1:1-20.

July 24 — Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos & Thyratira. Rev. 2:1-29.

July 31 — Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia & Laodicea. Rev. 3:1-22.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Did Paul Rejoice that the Church at Thessalonica was able to endure persecution? II Thess. 1:4.
- (2) What will God cause to happen to them who receive not the love of the truth? II Thess. 2:11-12.
- (3) Should we count as our enemy one who would not obey the admonitions of Paul? II Thess. 3:15.
- (4) Was John able to recognize Jesus even though Jesus had a glorified body? Rev. 1:13.
- (5) What will happen to one who eats of the tree of life? Rev. 2:7; Gen. 3:22.



"The Christian Home can be an island of security in the midst of confusion and of love in the midst of hate."



Are we concerned enough about heaven to try to keep the covenant that we make with our Heavenly Father?



The greatest act is small if one for self and the smallest act is great if done for God and humanity. -J. Hamilton Dawson.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY, 1977

CONSUMED

Memory Verse, Num. 32:13

And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generations, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord, was consumed.

Fri. 1 — Num. 16:1-24

Sat. 2 — Num. 16:25-50

Memory Verse, Deut. 4:24

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

Sun. 3 — Num. 32:1-15

Mon. 4 — Deut. 2:1-25

Tues. 5 — Deut. 4:1-24

Wed. 6 — Deut. 9:1-23

Thur. 7 — Deut. 28:1-24

Fri. 8 — Deut. 28:25-47

Sat. 9 — Deut. 28:48-68

Memory Verse, Deut. 9:3

Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shall thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee.

Sun. 10 — Deut. 32:1-26

Mon. 11 — Deut. 32:27-52

Tues. 12 — Jos. 5:1-15

Wed. 13 — Jos. 24:1-28

Thur. 14 — Jud. 6:1-21

Fri. 15 — Jud. 6:22-40

Sat. 16 — I Sam. 2:1-17

Memory Verse, Deut. 32:22

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Sun. 17 — I Sam. 2:18-36

Mon. 18 — I Sam. 12:1-25

Tues. 19 — I Sam. 15:1-19

Wed. 20 — I Sam. 15:20-35

Thur. 21 — II Sam. 21:1-14

Fri. 22 — II Sam. 22:1-28

Sat. 23 — II Sam. 22:29-51

Memory Verse, I Sam. 12:25

But if he shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

Sun. 24 — I Kings 18:1-20

Mon. 25 — I Kings 18:21-46

Tues. 26 — I Kings 22:1-18

Wed. 27 — I Kings 22:19-40

Thur. 28 — II Kings 1:1-18

Fri. 29 — II Kings 7:1-20

Sat. 30 — II Kings 13:1-25

Memory Verse, I Kings 18:38

Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Sun. 31 — II Chron. 7:1-22

Memory Verse, II Kings 13:17

And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the Lord's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD

I love thy kingdom, Lord
The house of thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love thy Church, O God!
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven.

— Timothy Dwight

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

In the midst of falsehood it is refreshing to find the truth. When we are surrounded by false teachings and those who use a lie as a way of life, we are glad to find those who conform to the truth. But with so much falsehood about us, how can we know what is true and what is false?

We have the words of our Saviour to guide us. "Thy word is truth." John 17:17b. In His great, soul-stirring prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was concerned about those who would follow Him after the close of His earthly ministry. He was interested in their (and our) Spiritual lives.

Satan has always put forward that which seems good in man's sight and seems true to man's reasoning. All that he has presented though has proven false and deceitful. Certainly, Adam and Eve could testify about the fallacy of believing Satan. He is active yet today seeking whom he might deceive and devour. Religion has become one of his favorite tools. He presents a counterfeit religion that takes the name, Christian, but is far from the truth. Jesus stated that God's Word was truth, so a religion based on something other than the Word of God cannot be true.

Christians have many blessings, unknown by others, because their faith is anchored on the truth. Because of their acceptance of God's Truth, they have many blessings in this life as well as many more in the life after this one. The blessings that attend doing good and being truthful and honest are always worthwhile. The world may not realize these blessings, because they are primarily internal, Spiritual blessings, although often God does bless materially.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

The truth of God's Word has been enlivened by the work of Jesus Christ. If only the prophecies of His coming were considered, their fulfillment to the minutest detail would be sufficient to prove the truthfulness of the Bible. When we consider all the other matters the Bible touches upon with the same degree of accuracy, we can be sure that Jesus spoke correctly when He said, "Thy Word is truth."

Are you following the truth? Are you glad for the availability of the truth? Is your faith and practice established by the Word of God? If it is, you should be following the advice of Jude. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3.

Jude was writing of the "common salvation". It is the same that is required of all — there is no respect of persons with God. Jude could see the entrance of error and deceit even within the Church if an effort — an earnest effort — were not made to hold to the faith as delivered to man by God. This faith was that of the saints — those who had yielded themselves to the truth of God. Satan in his efforts of deceit would try to get them away from the truth of the Word of God. It was imperative for them to contend for that faith and practice, so the deceiver would be defeated in his purpose.

Contending for the faith is not primarily defending the faith. While a good knowledge of the faith is a necessity, the greatest need is not for defense but for making it known. Unless it is known by those who are not yielded to God's truth, there is no hope that they ever will be. Whether these lost ones are inside or outside the earthly Church, it is imperative that they know the saving faith — the entire plan of salvation ordained by God — not just a portion of it, as is now popular. The faith delivered to the saints goes beyond a conversion experience; it includes the entire Christian life.

Too often, although Christians have the truth to live by, they are put on the defensive by the world. The truth is put on trial instead of the deviation from the truth. Rather than compelling those who live in error to defend their falsehood, the Christian spends his time and efforts in defending himself for following the truth. Because his time is taken up with defense, he has little time or effort left to spread the truth. Why should plain dressing, simple living and practiced ordinances need to be defended? The truth is still the truth whether any or all accept it. "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar." Rom. 3:3-4a.

Are you contending for the truth? Are you even defending the truth? Do you even know the truth? "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

WHAT WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT

A farm boy visited New York City for the first time. He spent a whole day walking on Broadway and Fifth Avenue, going in and out of shops, riding escalators and elevators. When he arrived that evening at the place where he was staying with friends, he told them, "I have never seen so many things that I could do without."

I think we will all agree that modern civilization has added to life much that is entirely unnecessary for our existence. Yet, with the many unnecessary things in this life, I discover, also there are three absolute necessities for the man of God, things we cannot do without — absolute necessities, if we are to be the people we ought to be and want to be.

We must have these three to be well pleasing to Almighty God. This should be everyone's ambition. They are our passport to Heaven, when this brief life is over. Of these things, two are mentioned in the letter to the Hebrews and one is found in the Gospel according to St. John.

"Without shedding of blood is no remission." (of sin). Heb. 9:22.

"Without faith it is impossible to please him." Heb. 11:6.

"Without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

In regard to the first. Apart from the Son of God, who shed His blood for our redemption, there is no approach to God, no relationship with God, no acceptance by God and no salvation from God. It is impossible to be happy apart from the knowledge that our sins have been put away and that we are forgiven.

Precious is the blood of the Lamb!

Truly shed for one and for all. . . .

For the blood He gave doth renew and save,

And it makes us whiter than the snow.

Deep inside each of us is the assurance that, unless there is complete pardon and forgiveness for sins in this life, those sins are going to meet us up the way, to condemn us in the future.

In both the Old and the New Testament, the message is "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

In the Old Testament they came to God by shed blood. In the New Testament we come to God by shed blood. The Patriarchs, "they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of his Testimony . . ." "... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Then, too, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." What is the faith that pleases God? Just this, "I believe that God has spoken,

recorded in the Bible what 'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.'" II Pet. 1:21. In the Garden of Eden, Mother Eve turned her back on what God had said. She believed the devil's lies and so did Adam. In Adam all died, through unbelief. To be saved we turn our back on Satan's lies and believe what God has said, as He revealed His will and plan in His Holy Word.

Faith also means that I believe what the Bible has to say about Jesus Christ. It was He who died for us. I must believe, "neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Finally, the Lord Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." "For He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 103:14. He knows we are not wise enough, clever enough, or strong enough to live an effective life, as a Christian, in our own strength.

"What is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you the hope of Glory." Col. 1:27. The Lord Jesus Christ wants to think with your brain, look out through your eyes, listen with your ears, speak with your lips, work with your hands, and love with your heart. It is as we allow the Lord Jesus to clothe Himself with us that He, through our weakness, demonstrates the greatness of His power, that all the honor, glory and praise may be His, who alone is worthy to receive it.

Brother Ray S. Shank

BITS AND BRIDLES

"Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding; whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." Psalm 32:9. To be useful to mankind, animals must be controlled. Some, which are very spirited, need extra control, while those with a quiet nature are less difficult to handle. So it is with people and their tongues. For some, it is more difficult for them to control their emotions and their tongues than it is for others. Yet, control is necessary, for a person without it can never be useful in the Lord's work. Both animals and people need "bits and bridles," which control them and make them useful.

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James 1:26. God expects us to have more control of ourselves than an animal does. It is especially important that we control our tongues, lest what we say would cancel out all the good we can do. If

we let our tongues have a free rein and do not bridle them, our religion is worthless, no matter how good it appears to be. It is foolish to think that we can say what we please as long as we do other things right. We can never cover up for a biting, stinging, evil tongue.

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:8. If you can't tame your tongue, then how is it possible to control it as God wants it to be? An animal is without understanding or self-control, so we can assume that understanding (or wisdom) is necessary for control. This understanding comes only from the Lord. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17. A person who speaks wisely also thinks wisely and is under God's control. This is the kind of person God can use.

Our speech shows our wisdom (or lack of it) and whether or not we are under God's control. This applies to ministers, deacons, lay members — everyone. The Devil stirs us to speak out-of-turn: accusing, judging and condemning, gossiping or whatever, but we don't have to listen to him. We have the power through Christ to resist Satan. We can't blame God for errors we make or that we are led to say harmful, offensive things. We are to be in God's control; the Spirit will only lead you to say things which glorify God.

The giraffe, a mute animal, has a tongue about eighteen inches long. His tongue is used to obtain food, not for noisemaking. Maybe we can get a lesson from that and realize it's best not to speak alot and make as much noise as possible. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." James 1:19. Have you ever seen someone become angry quickly, then say unkind words, only to discover that he or she had misunderstood? If we listen more carefully, we will be slower to speak, for we have understood correctly.

If you are reproached for something you've said, do you try to reconcile the matter? Or do you rise to the defensive and become angry? Even the truth can be spoken in an offensive way and we can't excuse our harshness just because we've spoken the truth. Jesus often spoke harshly to the Pharisees, but He knew their hearts. We do not know people's hearts and must limit what we say accordingly.

"Speak not evil one of another, brethren." James 4:11a. God gives grace to the humble. If you are humble, He will help you to speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15). The quality of humility will help you to

consider other's feelings before you speak. It will help you to not accuse others, or speak evil of others because of something you see. The way you "suppose" it to be and the way it looks to you may not be right at all. We only know what we can see, but God knows it all. Only He can determine the motive which is in people's hearts. He will not falsely accuse anyone.

Your speech indicates who is in control of you. If your heart belongs to Christ and is under His control, your tongue will be. Such a heart (and tongue) is governed by His love. Love does not think evil, much less say it. Love is kind and considerate, not rude or insulting. Love is not easily angered. See I Cor. 13:4-5. We need to be careful what we say and how we say it, lest we be speaking evil. Love will help us do this.

Bits and bridles help man to control animals. People are properly controlled by God and His Word. We can be an offense to both God and man, if we are unrestrained, but with Christ in our hearts there is control which leads to perfection. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 3:2b. An unbridled tongue harms everyone, but "the mouth of a righteous man is a well of life." Prov. 10:11a. Keep your tongue, for your soul's sake, and you will be blessed.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554



"Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees."



The happiest being upon earth is the one who is too busy helping
others to feel sorry for himself.



Work as if you were to live a hundred years; pray as if you were to die
tomorrow.

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the Way —
The way to God the Father;
The way to peace and joy.
He is the true Way.

Jesus is the Light —
The light to make plain the path;
The light to brighten the way.
He is the Light of the world.

Jesus is the Door —
The door to true joys on earth;
The door to life and heaven.
He is the only Door to salvation.

Jesus is the Shepherd —
The Shepherd cares for His sheep
The Shepherd leads by the water and pasture.
He is the good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Bread —
The bread to feed the hungry;
The bread to fill the empty soul.
He is the Bread of life.

Jesus is the Water —
The water to quench the thirsty;
The water to give eternal life.
He is the living water.

Jesus is the Vine —
The vine which strength provides;
The vine through which life flows.
He is the true Vine.

Jesus is the Resurrection —
The resurrection from the old man;
The resurrection to the new man.
He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus is the Teacher —
He is the Lord, my King.
He is the Son of man, and yet —
He is the Son of God.

Do you know this Jesus?

—Doris Landis
Selected by Sister Ruth Drake

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"DOWN WITH BAAL"

JUDGES 6:25-32

Israel had departed a long way from God. They built altars unto Baal and planted groves of trees around them. One of these altars was on property belonging to Gideon's father. Israel left the living God to worship an idol of stone. They were about as far from God as they could get. They needed a man who would lead them back to God. God chose Gideon to do it.

In the night, God spoke to Gideon and said, "Take your father's bullock of seven years old and throw down the altar of Baal, and cut down the grove by it; build an altar unto the Lord upon this rock and take the bullock and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove that you shall cut down."

Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord said. Because Gideon was afraid of his father's household and the men of the city that worshipped Baal, he went at night and pulled down the altar of Baal and cut down the grove around it. Then he built an altar unto the Lord and offered the bullock upon it. In the morning when the men of the city rose up early, they looked over towards the hill where the altar of Baal stood. Surprise! Surprise! The altar of Baal was cast down and the grove was cut down that was by it. These men were all excited and angry because someone had the courage to tear down the altar of Baal which they worshipped. They asked, "Who had done this thing?" And when they inquired around, someone said, "Gideon has done this thing." I suppose one of the servants that helped Gideon told them.

The men of the city came to Joash, the father of Gideon, and said, "Bring out thy son, that he may die; because he has cast down the altar of Baal and cut down the grove."

And Joash replied, "Will you plead for Baal? Will you save him? He that will plead for Baal let him be put to death. If Baal is a God let him plead for himself."

Do you have anything that you think more of than God? God must come first in our lives. If He doesn't, we are guilty of worshipping an idol. It takes courage to stand for God. Remember Gideon and get rid of anything that stands between you and the Lord.

Brother Rudy Cover



Read your Bible . . . prevent Truth decay.

LET US EXALT HIS NAME

The worship of God does something for us that cannot be found anywhere else. We have wonderful reasons to worship our Savior. Pray God that we may receive a blessing as we study His Word and praise His Name.

Paul was concerned for the lost but he was also very concerned for the Christian. Did you ever consider that? He went to sinners in many journeys and wrote letters to saints. In II Cor. 11:2 he tells the Corinthians he was jealous over them with a Godly jealousy. He felt responsible for the converts and feared that Satan would deceive them. Paul asked the Corinthians, "who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

In our day no one APPEARS to be hindering us, yet we are sometimes prevented from accomplishing what God would have us do. The devil tries to stop us through things, our possessions or our thoughts. Most of us have been hindered or we would have grown more in the Christian Graces. Church history shows many have stumbled and lost the Christian race.

What has hindered US?

The Galatians STARTED out well on their race. But something caused them to falter. Has the ministry hindered us? Has it not fed us the right food? Pray for the ministers. Have our fellow members hindered us? We must ask ourselves, "Am I a hinderance to my brother or sister?" Then pray for one another. God gives power for healing forgiveness.

The influence of the world is hard to escape, yet Christ prayed — "not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." If it is the world that hinders us why walk so close to it?

Is it the devil?

I believe Satan is the root of ALL hinderances, but the Bible has the answer to ALL troubles.

James 4:8 tells us to "draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." That may be the reason God can't draw nigh to us — because we are not close to Him. Could it be that we ourselves are hindering us? — ourself gets in the way? — our pride? God hates a proud look.

Neglect?

Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together. Exhort one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. Excuses — too ill to go to Church or too busy? Unthinking? We don't meditate enough on the WORD. David said, "while I meditate the Spirit burns in me."

How far have we gone in the Christian race? Where are we in God's sight?

The Holy Book teaches us to partake of the Word of Life. Without it we can't run the race with vigor. Sleep is good in the natural state but we will not progress in the spiritual race if we are overcome with spiritual drowsiness. We need the Bread of Life for strength.

Paul told the Hebrews in chapter 5 verse 12, "For when ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat." Shame on us to need to be taught again repentance, baptism, love and forgiveness instead of being able to teach others. Who has prevented us that we can't teach love?

God has given many people a longing, hungering heart for His peace — yet they do not accept Him. He has not given them up or they wouldn't still be seeking. God still pleads for them. Who hinders them? Could it be us? If it is us, WHY is it us? Jesus said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me." Humbly I think how I lack the power to draw men to God.

The devil works through men. He is a liar. He tells us, "there is time to enjoy yourself." God says, "today is the hour, harden not your heart."

Someone said, "God have mercy on them that are hindered and also those that hinder." If we are following Christ at a distance we may have more to account for than we think.

Compared to the sinners way — Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" — for the way of the transgressor is hard.

Isa. 25:1, "O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

I trust God will use this to show us our responsibilities to ourselves and others.

Selected by Sister Elta K. Blythe

THE GOLDEN YEARS

"When shall I start teaching my son about the Bible?"

A Christian mother asked this question of her new pastor.

"How old is he?"

"Six," she replied.

"Hurry home, woman, you have already lost five precious years," the pastor exclaimed.

This is not a joke but a matter of the gravest importance. Too many parents assume that little children are not prepared to hear and understand spiritual truths, and in their ignorance they fritter

away golden years of opportunity.

The mind of a child does not operate in a vacuum. Even when he is only a few months old, impressions are being formed and character developed. What a tragedy it is to permit this formative period to pass without making an impact on him for God and His Word!

The hearts and minds of little children are amazingly receptive to outside impressions, either for good or evil and when our Lord affirmed, "Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein," He was speaking of the characteristics of a child which are so worth emulating by all.

We know of individuals who deplore telling children stories of violence which are to be found in the Bible. These usually depict heroism, divine guidance, and intervention and carry with them the implication of man's dependence on God which thrill young minds and brings blessing to them throughout life.

When one considers the violence in the very unfunny "funnies", on television, and in the daily press, one is inclined to cry out against any effort to deprive children of stories about David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den and his three companions in the fiery furnace, to mention but a few.

Even more deplorable is the concerted effort on the part of some to protect children from the "gory" details of our Lord's death on Calvary. Some persons to my positive knowledge have reprimanded Sunday School teachers for mentioning the "blood of Christ" to their children. And yet, when such children are subjected to the impressions of so much violence all around, why should they be denied the story of the death of the Son of God, and the cleansing and redeeming blood which flowed from Calvary?

One of the outstanding characteristics of children is their simple faith. How wonderful, then, is the opportunity to instill in their minds the truths about Christ which will form the basis for their own faith in Him!

Innocence in itself carries a challenge and a warning. Woe be it to any who either takes advantage of innocence for evil ends or ignores its potential for good.

Christ is the center of the Christian home and He must become the center of child training if it is to be effective.

One of the first problems one must handle is the psychology of the child. Even the very small will sense things he has never been told. They know whether parents are sincere in their spiritual aspirations for them or not.

It is little use to speak of prayer to a child if the parents are never seen praying. Little use to speak of the importance of Bible study if the parents are never seen reading the Word. Why tell of Christ's love and transforming power if our children do not see the effect of His presence in our lives?

But all of these things can take place, and there can be fulfilled before our eyes the promise, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

It should not be forgotten that it is the way he should go and not the way he wants to go, for the truth that "foolishness is bound in the heart of a child" is self-evident to all who try to guide wayward little feet.

Fortunately, Christian parents are not left to carry out their tasks alone, nor do they lack the tools.

First, they have the privilege of praying for their children, as well as with them. The power of prayer will never be understood this side of eternity. That God hears and answers prayer, that He reaches out often to bring help and blessing to our children, should be an unending source of comfort.

In a very real sense the Bible is the foundation of true education. It is the reverential trust in God which is the beginning of and love for the Holy Scriptures, has the best preparation possible.

Young Timothy was raised amid surroundings we today would call utterly primitive. But he had the best training a parent can give: "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The Christian parent has the same privilege today.

— Author unknown

Selected by Brother Clarence Gehr

LIFE OR DEATH

Philippians 1:20, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." Paul, while he was in prison, had the desire to magnify Christ, "Whether it be by life or by death." Do we have that desire? If we don't, there must be something lacking in our spiritual life.

Many have told me, they feel they have no purpose in living. They love to spend their time in the way the world does, they say they find pleasure and enjoyment. I told them, they would find a lot of real

pleasure in serving the Christ that died for them, but they don't want to hear about Christ. If only they would pause and think of the life they will have, when they leave this world of pleasure. It is very sad for me to see some of my dear ones on this same road. If they would let Christ come in and abide, they would have joy untold, when Christ calls them Home. When they live here in sin they don't have any real pleasure and when they die they have no hope of a life hereafter.

Now, as the children of God, we must try to show them a better way: the strait and narrow way that leads to life eternal. Then they will have a purpose for being here. Christ has a plan for each of us, if only we are willing to fit into that plan. I believe the members of the early Church felt man lived to magnify God, to serve Him and to praise His Holy Name. Sometimes, as we try to labour for the Master, we become discouraged when the way becomes difficult, but how much better we feel when we can see souls born into the Kingdom.

I think of some of the dear, old Saints as they have come to the end of this life. How happy they were to go to meet Jesus. They surely found a real purpose for living and a wonderful joy when they closed their eyes to go to be with their Lord. I am sure many dear Saints felt like the Apostle Paul, they too had fought a good fight, and had kept the Faith and were ready to meet the Dear Lord.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NON-COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

There is no one who cannot communicate with God. If a person doesn't communicate with God, it is because they do not want to change their way of life so it will be according to God's commandments. Children sometimes disobey their parents and take their own way. This is unwise of them.

If one doesn't communicate with God, one will be selfish and not do right in the eyes of God. People will dislike this type of person and a loss of friends will result from being this way.

If we do not communicate with God through His Word we will not have any of His secrets revealed to us. Therefore our communication with others will not be according to His Word.

Many say they do not need to communicate with God. They try to put on a good front. But back of this they are like all others who do not communicate with God.

Sister Janice Sowers

NEWS ITEMS**ENGLEWOOD, OHIO**

The Lord willing, the Englewood Congregation will hold a revival meeting July 17 through July 31. Elder Dean St. John of West Unity, Ohio will be the evangelist. Meetings will be at 7:45 each evening through the week and 7:30 on Sunday evenings.

Pray for these meetings that the Church might be strengthened and souls saved in these last and latter days.

We will have our Harvest Meeting, Sunday afternoon July 31, with a basket dinner at noon.

Come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Broadwater Chapel Congregation plans to hold a revival meeting July 30 to August 7. Bro. Virgil Leatherman of Littlestown, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist.

There will be services Saturday P.M., August 6 and Love Feast in the evening.

We invite all who can, to come and worship with us.

Sister Bertha R. Dorsey, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA**"LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"**

Elder Allen Eberly is to be the evangelist for a two week series of meetings with the Dallas Center, Iowa congregation. The meetings will begin July 17, 1977 and close July 31 with all-day meetings the 30th and 31st.

Our Lovefeast will be the evening of July 30th.

You are invited to attend any of these meetings and worship with us.

Sis. Juanita Reed, Cor.

NOTICE

The new Treasurer of the General Mission Board is Bro. William Carpenter. Please continue to send your contributions to Bro. Harley Rush, The secretary of the General Mission Board, but make checks payable to William Carpenter.

Bro. Joseph E. Flora
Chairman - General Mission Board

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Cuba, N. Mexico 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Dr.
Modesto, Ca. 95350

Kyle Reed, Secretary
Minburn, Iowa 50167

Newton Jamison, Treasurer
Quinter, Kansas 67752

Harley Flory
R. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out of the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

JULY 15, 1977

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

REVIVE THY WORK

Revive Thy work, O Lord!
Thy mighty arm make bare;
Speak with the voice that wakes the dead,
And make Thy people hear.

Revive Thy work, O Lord!
Disturb this sleep of death;
Quicken the smould'ring embers now
By Thine almighty breath.

Revive Thy work, O Lord!
Create soul-thirst for Thee;
But hung'ring for the bread of life,
Oh, may our spirits be!

Revive Thy work, O Lord!
Exalt Thy precious name;
And, by the Holy Ghost, our love
For Thee and Thine inflame.

- Alfred Midlane

A PEACE TREATY

The cry of this confused, unpeaceful world is "Peace, Peace." There are many organizations and movements devoted to securing and maintaining peace in the world. The news is full of man's attempts to make a peaceful world. Despite the best efforts of these groups there is a terrible lack of peace today.

The world attempts to guarantee peace through treaties signed by the representatives of the various governments of the world. These treaties often prove to be worth only the paper they are written on. Soon one or both countries will violate the provisions written in the treaty. Often these treaties are written and signed with a lack of good conscience. The history of our own country is spotted by the white man's disregard of most of the treaties made with the various Indian tribes. This disregard has bred a distrust that yet lies in the hearts of the native Americans. Greed overcame any intentions of fulfilling the treaties' demands. Because of covetousness and pride the world lacks peace despite untold hundreds of treaties written and signed over the centuries.

Peace treaties are made by the world's governments to end warfare and other confusions. The weaker nation will seek the end of hostilities by suing for peace. The stronger will cease its war activities in return for certain concessions of territory or other valuables from the weaker. If the opposing nations are of equal strength the peace treaty may end the warfare by imposing various conditions on each side. Most peace treaties are the result of the preponderance of force and that force is necessary to enforce them.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JULY 15, 1977

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

The basic reason for the failure of the world's striving for peace is the forced absence of the Prince of Peace. Their treaties and organizations are doomed to failure since they have only man's way of keeping the peace. Man can keep the peace only through a show of force, which is the very opposite of peace. When many governments make it a crime to speak of or to worship Jesus Christ, it is sure their efforts at finding peace are doomed.

The world is not a true friend of peace since the Prince of Peace is rejected in their seeking for peace. The Church is the only peace organization in the world which is assured of success. The peace it secures is peace with God, which will lead to peace among men. The world fails in its search for peace because there is no search for peace with God first. This peace comes only through His Son. Jesus was offered upon the cross as a peace offering for man toward God. God has in this way offered a peace treaty to man. In this case it is the stronger offering terms of peace to the weaker. He is not only offering this peace but is actively seeking those who will accept the offer.

All accountable humans by their sins and short comings are at warfare with God until they accept His plan for peace. He has paid a high price so mankind can have the benefit of His peace. For man to secure this peace there must be a complete, unconditional surrender to the will of God. This is a peace that is beyond the understanding of this world. The world can only understand a peace maintained by superior force. This peace is available by man's free choice - if he will surrender. This peace works in the hearts of men impelling them to do good to others and to carry out the commands of God.

The Church is a peace organization because of the doctrine of non-resistance which governs her members' activities with mankind. She is a peace organization because she is God's instrument to extend peace to those who are still alienated from God. She is a peace organization since she is composed of those who have made their peace with God.

But is peace present in the Church as would be expected? Often those who differ "paper over" their differences for the sake of "peace" but the old animosity and distrust still reign in their hearts. This lack of repentance and reconciliation should not be in God's peace organization. It is a hinderance to the work of the Church. How can nonresistance be proclaimed when the members are "resisting" one another although they outwardly are at peace? How can peace grow when the seed is not present?

God has offered a peace treaty to each human. If entered into in good conscience and with a desire to do God's Will, it will yield a

wonderful peace within the heart and in the Church as well. Have you accepted the terms of God's peace treaty? Are you living up to the duties given you by that treaty? Are you enjoying that peace?

IT'S WHAT YOU GET THAT COUNTS

It's not what you pay for something that's so important; it's what you get that counts. If you pay alot of money for a piece of junk, you've given alot and received almost nothing. What you give up for the Lord is not so important; it's what you get that counts. Christianity is not just a giving-up religion; it is a getting religion, for you receive far more than you can ever give up. After you have received Christ into your heart, there will be many blessings to follow, if you will just trust Him to give them to you. But even if all you receive is Christ, you've received the best.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3b. When you have been born again, you can start over and do things right from now on. The reason your life became such a mess of sin is because you didn't have the Lord's help. You were born with a sinful nature and until you are changed within, you will just go on in the same old rut. When you are born again, even though you can't erase the effects of the mistakes you've made, it will be different. Your sins are forgiven and the Lord will be with you and help you.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Pet. 3:18a. As you begin to grow in the Lord, He will refine your personality. He will give you a mind which is altogether new. There are new hopes and desires and new attitudes about others. You will also have a new appearance, not just in your wardrobe, but on your face. Gone will be the hard, rebellious expression which indicates sin reigns within, or the haggard look of one whose body has been abused with narcotics, alcohol and the like. In its place will be a sparkle in your eyes and a peaceful, radiant expression which was not there before.

When sin reigns within, you reflect that in every action as well as on your face. When the Lord has control of you, you will reflect His glory. (See II Cor. 3:18). He will give you a new character and new speech, which will be pleasant and respectful not careless or rude. You will enjoy things you didn't enjoy before: Christian friends and fellowship, helping others, and especially you will be glad when you can share your faith with others.

You have become a member of a new family now, a royal one. "But as many as receive him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13. You are now an heir with Christ and are eligible to be blessed in a way you never could be before. The barrier between you and God is gone and you can seek His help in all things.

You've given up alot, haven't you, to reach this point? But it's worth it, isn't it? When sin's hold on you is broken and the old desires are gone, it won't seem like you've given up anything. What you get will count so much that the price you pay doesn't seem important. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14. Instead of just a rat-race of life, there will be a race toward a prize given by our Lord. This gives a real purpose to all you do.

Your new life in Christ will be a life of service, a new walk before God and man. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." Col. 2:6. It will also be a new warfare: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." 1 Tim. 6:12a. Instead of a war within you of restlessness and spiritual distress, your new battle will be against sin and Satan. He wants to keep you from eternal life, but this belongs to you when you belong to Christ. "He that beliveth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:36a.

Satan may give you a real battle, but he can't defeat you unless you permit it. You have a promise of victory if you belong to God. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:4-5. When your faith is in Christ, there will be victory instead of defeat in your life.

What do you give up to get all this? Your self! Self says, "I want this," or "Give me that," but there is no satisfaction in selfishness. What you get in that way doesn't count. But there is a way to get something that really counts. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. God's Son sacrificed His life so you could be saved; there's nothing you can pay to redeem yourself. But God does ask you to give yourself to Him in total, complete, unselfish service. He is asking alot of you, but it's not too much considering

all that He gives to you. Will you do it? Remember, the price you pay isn't so important; it's what you get that counts!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

"WHAT CAN I DO?"

"I'm only one person,"
She cried in despair,
"The world needs MUCH help
What's my job and where?"

"I'm such a small part
Of the great population
How can I help
To improve our nation?"

Only ONE person
Indeed, sounds quite small,
But the power we contain
Can influence all.

An example - ONE smile
To a sad passerby
Can be quite contagious -
Just watch, you'll see why!
Your word of encouragement
To one who needs cheer
Can brighten their day
And all they're near
Letting our light shine
That God gave within
Can illuminate the dark
And attract fallen man.

God could use us all
To get love ripples flowing
That spread across the world
Without us even knowing -
We do have MUCH power,
Godly deeds let's start sowing!

Sister Sally Stauffer



Christianity is not an escape from life — it is life!

SOUTH FULTON

THE QUICKENING SPIRIT

A Sermon by Elder Melvin Roesch

Ephesians 2

The giving of this quickening Spirit is something that man cannot do. Man can baptize but the Lord has to give the New Life.

We are small and helpless creatures just as the children of Israel who spied on Canaan. They said, "We are as grasshoppers, there are giants in the land." It would be wonderful if we could be humble and contrite and consider ourselves small as grasshoppers in the sight of God. Man can not put a grain of wheat in the ground and make it grow. Only God gives the increase. But we must do the part we can and let God give the life.

Matt. 8:2, a leper came saying, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus said, "I will; be thou clean." And immediately he was clean. It takes the power of God to make us clean. Being born again gives us opportunity to sit in the high places with Jesus. We believe there is eternal life beyond this life. Our natural life is our school ground to prepare us for Heaven. A child of God is cleansed within and without - to be a new creature. Remember that.

No man could tame the man possessed with devils, who was "exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass that way." With the word of Jesus, a change was made. When the love of Jesus got into that man's heart, he was a changed man. But the people did not want Jesus in their country and asked Him to leave. They thought more of their swine than that poor man in chains.

Acts 16. A damsel possessed with a spirit of divination brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and Silas many days until it grieved Paul and he commanded the spirit, "in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Paul changed the woman through Christ. Those who used the damsel's spirit saw the hope of their gains gone. They caught Paul and Silas and took them before the rulers saying, "These men ... trouble our city." They would not receive Paul's teachings of Christ.

So many people today rebel against the Spirit, just as the sorcerers did. They won't accept Christ.

Paul and Silas were beaten with many stripes, put into jail with their feet fast in stocks. At midnight they sang and prayed. A great earthquake suddenly shook the foundations of that prison and all the prisoners were loosed. The keeper of the prison was about to kill himself when he saw what had happened. But Paul told him, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here."

My Bible tells me the jailer, "called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas." This is very impressive to me. If the jailer couldn't see and called for a light, how could Paul see and know that all were there? Paul couldn't see, but the Spirit told him what to say.

The jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." God made a change. I believe that jailer cared and loved as he washed those stripes that had been inflicted in anger and brutality. He had the balm of Gilead - mercy for Paul and Silas. What a wonderful change.

What was the cause of this change? The glorious power of God. Have you studied what you would answer to any man who asks the reason of your life? I Peter 3:15 tells us to "... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

We can sanctify Christ in our heart. To sanctify is to set apart as holy - to consecrate as sacred and holy obedience. When the children of Israel were coming through the desert, Moses was told to speak to the rock to bring water. Instead he struck it twice with his rod. God told him, "Because ye believed in me not, to sanctify me ... ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

When we believe Him in the heaviness of temptation, our soul is tried in fire. I believe God chastens every child He receives. It is up to us to receive that chastening and endure trials. God will help us to be conformable to His Will. We are of His workmanship.

Grace is a gift.

Faith needs works. "Faith without works is dead." James 2:20. Even the devils believe and tremble. Can you believe that? Why don't the devils do anything about their spiritual life? They know who Christ is.

We are rewarded according to our work. Rev. 14:13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." John heard it.

Even though we have manifold temptations "the trial of your faith is much more precious than of gold that perisheth, yet believing ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

I have heard people say, "I want to shake hands with my Saviour when I reach Heaven." I have a different feeling. John had been with Christ, spoke with Him and bare record. Rev. 1:2. John saw a Glorified Being much different than the face of his Saviour when

He walked on earth with John and His other disciples. In verse 17 John says, "When I saw him I fell at His feet as dead." That is how I feel I will be if I am fortunate enough to reach Heaven to see our Great Redeemer.

We are not the light - only reflectors of that light. May we be strong enough to reflect the reality of the Gospel. I hope our attitude is to trust God - and to trust our tomorrow to Him.

I know it is hard - some trials are not easy, especially in the Church. It is sad we lose our tongue. I hope God will forgive us. The Bible tells us He will forgive if we ask.

The Lord tells us to render to Caesar the things which be Caesar's and the things to God which are God's. Matt. 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheeps clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The outside that can be seen must be honorable; it also holds for the inside. We see a wolf in sheep's clothing, but you don't see a sheep (Christian) in wolves' clothing.

May the Lord add His blessing.

Sister Elta K. Blythe

822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois 61455

FAMILY WORSHIP

A prayerless family cannot be otherwise than irreligious. They who pray in their homes, do well; they that not only pray, but read the Bible, do better; but they who do best of all, who not only pray and read the Bible, but sing praises to God. What scene can be more lovely on earth, more like the Heavenly Home, and more pleasing to God, than that of a pious family with one accord around the home altar, uniting their supplications to their Father in Heaven! How sublime the act of those parents who thus pray for the blessing of God upon their household! How lovely the scene of a pious mother gathering her little ones at the bedside, and teaching them the privilege of prayer! And what a safeguard is this devotion, against all the machinations of Satan!

It is this which makes home a type of Heaven, the dwelling-place of God. The family altar is Heaven's threshold. And happy are those children who, at the altar, have been consecrated by a father's blessing, baptized by a mother's tears, and borne up to Heaven upon their joint petitions, as a voluntary thank-offering to God. The home that has honored God with an altar of devotion may well be called blessed. The influence of family worship is great, silent, irresistible and permanent. It affords home security and

happiness, removes family friction, and causes all the complicated wheels of the home machinery to move on noiselessly and smoothly. It promotes union and harmony, expunges all selfishness, allays petulant feelings and turbulent passions, destroys peevishness of temper, and makes home intercourse holy and delightful. It causes the members to reciprocate each other's affections, hushes the voice of recrimination, and exerts softening and harmonizing influence over each heart. The dew of Hermon falls upon the home where prayer is wont to be made. Its members enjoy the pleasantness of dwelling together in unity. It gives tone and intensity to their affections and sympathies; it throws a sunshine on their hopes and interests; it increases their happiness, and takes away their grief and sorrow. Its voice has sent many a poor prodigal home to his father's house. Its answer has often been, "This man was born there!" The child, kneeling beside the pious mother, and pouring forth its infant prayer to God, must attract the notice of the heavenly host, and receive into its soul the power of a new life.

But in order to do this, the worship must be regular and devout, and the whole family engage in it. Some families are not careful to have their children present when they worship. This is very wrong. The children, above all others are benefited, and should always be present. Some do not teach the children to kneel during prayer, and hence, they awkwardly sit in their seats, while their parents kneel. This is a sad mistake. If they do not kneel, they naturally suppose they have no part or lot in the devotions, and soon feel it is wrong for them to bow before the Lord. We have seen many cases where grownup sons and daughters have never bent the knee before the Lord, and thought it wrong to kneel till they were Christians. In this way they were made more shy and stubborn, and felt that there was an impassable barrier between them and Christ. This feeling is wrong, and unnecessary. If family worship had been rightly observed, they would have felt that they were very near the Saviour, and would easily be inclined to give their hearts to Him. Indeed, children thus trained seldom grow to maturity without becoming practical Christians. Indeed, in itself, it embodies a hallowing influence that pleads for its observance.

It must needs be that trials will enter a household. The conflict of wishes, the clashing of views, and a thousand other causes, will ruffle the temper, and produce jar and friction in the machinery of the family. There is needed there, some daily agency that shall softly enfold the homestead with its hallowed and soothing power, and restore the fine, harmonious play of its various parts. The

father needs that which gently lifts away from his thoughts the disquieting burden of his daily business; the mother that which shall smooth down the fretting irritation of her unceasing toil and trial; and the child and domestic that which shall neutralize the countless agencies of evil that beset them. And what so well adapted to do this, as for all together, when the day is done, around the holy page, and pour a united supplication and acknowledgment to that sleepless Power, whose protection and security are ever around their path, and who will bring all things at last into judgement? And when dark and sadder days begin to shadow the home, what can cheer and brighten the sinking heart so finely as this standing resort to that fatherly One who can make the tears of the loneliest sorrow to be the seed pearls of the brightest crown? See what becomes with religion as its life and rule.

Human nature is there checked and moulded by the amiable spirit and lovely character of Jesus. Compare an irreligious home with this, and see the vast importance of family worship. It is a moral waste; its members move in the putrid atmosphere of vitiated feeling and misdirected power. Brutal passions become dominant; we hear the stern voice of parental despotism; we behold a scene of filial strife and insubordination; there is throughout a heart blank. Domestic life becomes clouded by a thousand crosses and disappointments. The solemn realities of the eternal world are cast into the shade; the home-conscience and feeling becomes stultified; the sense of moral duty distorted, and all the true interests of the home appear in a haze.

It is included in the necessities of our children, and in the covenant promises of God. The penalties of its neglect, and the rewards of our faithfulness to it, should prompt us to its establishment in our homes. Its absence is a curse; its presence a blessing. It is a foretaste of Heaven. Like manna, it will feed our soul, quench our thirst, sweeten the cup of life, and shed a halo of glory and of gladness around our firesides. Let yours, therefore, be a religious home; and then be sure that God will delight to dwell therein, and His blessing will descend, like the dews of heaven, upon it.

Your children shall "not be found begging bread," but shall be like olive "plants around your table," - "the heritage of the Lord." Yours will be the home of love and harmony; it shall have the charter of family rights and privileges, the ward of family interests, the security of family hopes and happiness. Your household piety will be the crowning attributes of your peaceful home, the crown of living stars that shall adorn the night of its tribulation, and the pillar

of cloud and of fire in its pilgrimage to "a better country." It shall strew the family threshold with flowers of promise, and enshrine the memory of loved ones gone before in all the fragrance of that "blessed hope" of reunion in Heaven which looms up from a dying hour. It shall give the infant soul its "perfect flowering," and expand it in all the fullness of a generous love and conscious blessedness, making it "lustrous in the divine knowledge." And then in the dark hour of home separation and bereavement, when the question is put to you mourning parents, "is it well with the child? is it well with thee?" you can answer with joy "It is Well!"

From Royal Path of Life

Selected by Brother L. A. Shumake

THE SECOND COMING

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matthew 25:13. While traveling, I noticed a sign, "Jesus is coming soon." A little farther on, I noticed another sign. This one said, "One of these hours the Lord is coming." I thought about these words for a long time. I wondered if He should come this hour, would I be ready, would I be eagerly watching and waiting for Him?

If each of us could grasp the real meaning of Christ's return it would bring joy and comfort to our hearts. I think of the many out in the world of sin and the foolish things they do and say but never give a thought about their life hereafter. I have a lot of comfort in knowing that I am His child and that one of these days, He will come and take me Home. I think alot about how wonderful it will be. When all the true sons and daughters of our Blessed Lord will meet Him in the air, then we will all be united with the Saints and loved ones who have gone on before. Then all can dwell with Him forever.

Sister E. M. Alltus



You may bury a man seven feet under ground, but you can never bury his influence.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"GIDEON WANTED TO BE SURE"

Judges 6:36-40

God told Gideon that he would smite the Midianites and save Israel. It was something that would have been impossible without God's help. Gideon could hardly believe that God had chosen him to be the "mighty man of valor" that would save Israel. And Gideon said unto God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have said, behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that you will save Israel by my hand." (Gideon was talking about the threshing floor which was a hard-packed piece of ground where the bundles of grain were placed to be tramped on by oxen. This would separate the wheat from the straw.) When Gideon got up early the next morning it didn't look like there had been any dew at all - everything was dry - but when he squeezed the fleece of wool together, he wrung out a bowl-full of water.

Gideon still couldn't be sure that God wanted him to overcome the Midianites. Gideon said unto God, "Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew."

God did so that night. The next morning the ground was wet with dew but the fleece of wool was dry. Gideon was now ready for God to use him. He knew beyond a doubt that God was going to make him a leader of Israel to destroy the Midianites.

In the New Testament we read about another man who wanted to be sure. His name was Thomas. The other Apostles had seen Jesus after His resurrection and they told Thomas they had seen the Lord. Thomas said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." The next time Jesus appeared to them, Thomas was there too and Jesus gave Thomas the opportunity to do just what he asked. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Jesus wants you to have faith in Him and He will bless you abundantly.

Brother Rudy Cover

THUS SPEAKETH CHRIST OUR LORD

Ye call me Master and obey me not,
Ye call me Light and see me not,
Ye call me Way and walk me not,
Ye call me Life and desire me not,
Ye call me Fair and love me not,
Ye call me Wise and follow me not,
Ye call me Rich and ask me not,
Ye call me Eternal and seek me not,
Ye call me Gracious and trust me not,
Ye call me Noble and serve me not,
Ye call me Mighty and honour me not,
Ye call me Just and fear me not,
If I condemn you, blame me not.

- Selected

MARRIAGE

SMITH - JACKSON

Sister Aurelia Fern Smith, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Warren C. Smith of McClave, Colorado and Mr. Dewayne A. Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Jackson of Norcatur, Kansas, were united in marriage, May 23, 1977 at the home of the Campus Minister at McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Paul Miller, Campus Minister.

They are residing at Norcatur, Kansas.

NEWS ITEMS

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is planning another revival meeting this summer. The Lord willing, it will begin July 31 and close August 14, with Bro. David Skiles as our evangelist. We invite you to be with us and ask for your prayers on behalf of these meetings.

We enjoyed another Lovefeast the fourth Sunday of May. We were happy for our visiting ministers, who were: Joshua Rice, Virgil Leatherman, Laverne Keeney, Paul Hartz, John Pepper, and Frank Shaffer who officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Dunkard Brethren Church plans to hold revival from August 12 to 21, 1977. Brother Fred Pifer from Dallas Center Congregation is scheduled to be with us for this meeting. Please join us in prayer for an outpouring of God's blessing and power.

On Saturday, October 1, 1977, we will meet for Lovefeast Services at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

THANK YOU

We take this means to heartily thank each one who remembered us with flowers, gifts, cards and telephone calls, in the observance of our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

We thank God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us during those fifty years.

We implore His blessings upon each of you in the coming days and years.

Your Brother and Sister,
Paul and Margaret Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST

Aug. 7 — The Throne of God. Rev. 4:1-11.

Aug. 14 — The Book with the Seven Seals. Rev. 5:1-14.

Aug. 21 — Six of the Seals Opened. Rev. 6:1-17.

Aug. 28 — The Multitude Before the Throne of God. Rev. 7:1-17.

QUESTIONS:

References: Isa. 6:1; Dan. 7:9-14; Ezek. 1:26-28; Rev. 4:3.

(1) How many angels were around the throne of God? Rev. 5:11.

(2) Who was worthy to take the book and open the seals? Rev. 5:9.

(3) Who were the souls under the altar? Rev. 6:9.

(4) Were they alive? - could they talk? - did they have bodies? Rev. 7:10-11.

(5) Who were the one hundred forty-four thousand that were sealed? Rev. 7:4; 14:1-5.

(6) The great multitude that stood before the throne, clothed with white robes, was composed of whom? Rev. 7:9.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST, 1977

"CONSUMED"

Memory Verse: Ezra 9:14

Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldst not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

Mon. 1-II Chron. 18:1-34

Tues. 2-Ezra 9:1-15

Wed. 3-Neh. 2; 120

Thur. 4-Neh. 9:1-19

Fri. 5-Neh. 9:20-38

Sat. 6-Job 4:1-21

Memory Verse: Job 4:1-8 & 9

Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.

Sun. 7-Job 6:1-30

Mon. 8-Job 7:1-27

Tues. 9-Job 15:1-35

Wed. 10-Job 19:1-29

Thur. 11-Job 20:1-29

Fri. 12-Job 22:1-30

Sat. 13-Job 24:1-25

Memory Verse: Job 15:34

For the congregation of hypocrites

shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.

Sun. 14-Job 33:1-33

Mon. 15-Psa. 6:1-10

Tues. 16-Psa. 18:1-26

Wed. 17-Psa. 18:27-50

Thur. 18-Psa. 31:1-24

Fri. 19-Psa. 37:1-20

Sat. 20-Psa. 37:21-40

Memory Verse: Job 24:19

Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned.

Sun. 21-Psa. 39:1-13

Mon. 22-Psa. 49:1-20

Tues. 23-Psa. 59:1-17

Wed. 24-Psa. 71:1-24

Thur. 25-Psa. 73:1-28

Fri. 26-Psa. 78:1-25

Sat. 27-Psa. 78:26-48

Memory Verse: Psa. 39:11

When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.

Sun. 28-Psa. 78:49-72

Mon. 29-Psa. 90:1-17

Tues. 30-Psa. 102:1-28

Wed. 31-Psa. 104:1-35

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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AUGUST 1, 1977

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MORE ABOUT JESUS

More about Jesus I would know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me.

More about Jesus; in His word,
Holding communion with my Lord,
Hearing His voice in every line,
Making each faithful saying mine.

More about Jesus; on His throne,
Riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase;
More of His coming, Prince of Peace.

- E. E. Hewitt

HE WASHED HIS HANDS

In Matthew 27, we find the sad story of Pilate's surrender to self-interest and self-preservation. After examining Jesus both publicly and privately, he could find no fault in Him. Although he tried to persuade the Jewish leaders, he finally gave-in to their cries, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." It was a political decision. He desired the friendship of Caesar more than righteousness. He wanted to hold on to his position as governor and to look forward to an even greater position rather than stand for what was right. He gave in. Then we see the rather pathetic picture of him calling for a basin of water in which to wash his hands. He wanted to wash his hands of Jesus and this whole unfortunate mess he had gotten into.

Pilate thought the basin of water would purify him and absolve him of any blame in this matter. But would this basin of water suffice for him on the judgment day? Would it wash away his part in the condemnation of an innocent man?

From this incident the English language has developed an expression - washing one's hands of someone or something - which means we will have no more to do with them or it. Often frustration causes us to give up in despair or to lose interest in the troublesome thing. Pilate was frustrated with his problem concerning Jesus and His accusers. He wanted to be rid of the whole mess. He thought he could wash his hands of Jesus.

Through the centuries he has not been the only one who wanted to wash his hands of Jesus. There have been many who wanted nothing to do with Jesus, the Bible or the Church. Many have wanted to wash their hands of these things. Whether through in-

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

difference, outright opposition or cowardly compromise, they have followed Pilate's ungodly example. It has not only been government officials who have tried to ban Christianity but individuals who have lived their lives in complete opposition to Christ and the way of righteousness. They have washed their hands of Him and their basin of figurative water will do them no more good than Pilate's literal basin.

While it would be expected that the world would want nothing to do with Jesus, it is sad that even in many churches there is a tendency to follow Pilate's example. Christendom today would like to wash its hands of Jesus, the Bible and the Church. It is the claim of today that Jesus might be the Son of God but His commands were only for a long-ago forgotten age. For them the Bible may be the Word of God, but only in theological theory not in the ordering of their daily lives. The Church is viewed as an outdated institution not as the Bride of Christ preparing herself for Her soon-coming Bridegroom. The Church is to them the Body of Christ only for social and educational reasons. For them it is a dead and powerless body because they have no desire to give up their personal desires in answer to her pleas. They have robbed her of her power to discipline and to purify, preparatory to Christ's return. They have washed their hands of Jesus and all that He has given for their hearts' true benefit. They have compromised, like Pilate, for present enjoyment and position, forgetting the future, they should be getting ready for. Through the lack of standards of dress, personal morality and Christian conduct and through running with the world for fun and sport, professing Christendom has pretty well washed its hands of Jesus.

But will they escape God's judgment any more than Pontius Pilate? Even their theological theories like eternal security will prove to be a weight holding them back in the Spiritual race of life.

But, Dear Reader, how about you and me? Have we ever been guilty of washing our hands of Jesus? Have we ever wished we might not be known as a follower of Jesus? Have we ever been a "Peter" denying either by word or by deed that we are one of His? Have there been times when we wished we were not His, so we could enjoy the carnal pleasures so appealingly set before us? Have there been occasions when we wished we were not so "peculiar" in dress or conduct? Perhaps we too have been guilty of trying to wash our hands of Jesus. Perhaps we have been too much like Pilate, whom we condemn so readily.

Pilate's basin of water did no wash away his sin. Our figurative basin of water will not suffice for us either. A whole bucket of water

would not be enough to cleanse us of our sin. Only the blood of the oft-despised Jesus will serve to cleanse us. Have you been washed in His blood or are you still trying to wash your hands of Jesus, like Pilate?

1977 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

We enjoyed another mountaintop experience in the history of our beloved Church, as we gathered from the East, West, North and South for our forty-ninth General Conference. We were again blessed with the comfort and convenience of the Maranatha Bible Camp near North Platte, Nebraska, which we had learned to love four years ago. God blessed us with lovely weather for the entire Conference. Several days were rather warm but the air conditioned comfort of the tabernacle and dining room made our stay very enjoyable.

Bro. Carl Reed and Bro. Floyd Haldeman had things so well organized that everyone soon found themselves in comfortable rooms ready to enjoy the services.

We gathered for morning worship Saturday morning at 7:00 with Bro. Berkenstock as songleader.

Bro. Roy Swihart conducted the morning devotions using Ps. 34. Bless the Lord every day.

One very stormy day a certain minister remarked to a sister, "This is a terrible, stormy day." She quickly replied, "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Verse 4. There is fear on all sides. The world looks to astrology, witchcraft and Satanism for their help. The Christian looks to God. In verses 8-9 David gives us a picture of contentment in the heart of the man who trusts God. Verses 13-15 tell us to seek the things of God that His ears may be open to our prayers. Verses 17-19 tell us who holds the future in His hands, with a promise of deliverance to the righteous from all his enemies.

Saturday P.M.

Opening song, "I'll Count My Blessings."

Opening remarks by the moderator Bro. Milton Cook. Are we happy in our Saviour? There is no true happiness without Him.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Eldon Mallow, 1 Pet. 3:12-22.

Sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts. Have you counted the blessings of this day?

First Speaker: Bro. Fred Pifer. Do we appreciate our General Conference? What is the most important thing today? We must teach our children the LOVE of GOD for man's soul.

Text: Deut. 6:20-25. Subject: Manna from Home.

Tomorrow's Conference and tomorrow's Church depend on our teaching to our children and young people. Manna is food from Heaven. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Spartan mothers trained their children for war from babyhood up. Alexander the Great had the strength to conquer the world but could not conquer self. Timothy had Christian training from two generations. Do your children see love in the home or hear arguments and fighting? What kind of food do we send out with our children?

A godly mother had a son who refused her teachings and finally went to war in Vietnam. His mother kept in touch with him and sent many boxes of cookies for his enjoyment. The love of his mother and the hardships of war made him realize he needed the God his mother had taught him about. John 6:32-33, 48-51. Children need good food to grow physically but must also have spiritual food to grow spiritually. Pro. 1:8, "Forget not the law of thy mother." We need to feed manna each day. Our children are warriors in a foreign land. Do we send spiritual food and our prayers? Col. 3:20, Gen. 18:18-19. May our whole desire be to bring manna to our children.

Second Speaker: Bro. David Kegerreis. Text I John 4.

Try the spirits whether they be of God or of Satan. What will our Church be in the future? Is she growing spiritually or is she slipping back into the world? II Pet. 1:2; 3:16. Satan will be transformed into an angel of light. Will we follow him? Matt. 28:19-20. The Lord gave us a cross to bear. Are we willing? Christ says my yoke is easy, my burden is light. There is a teaching in the world today, "Once saved, always saved." Paul warns against this. I Tim. 5:8. He that provideth not for his family is worse than an infidel. This means spiritually as well as physically. We are swamped with the things of this world and have no time for our children. I Tim. 3:1-5; 10-13; II John 9-11; I John 3:24. Use the Word of God to try the spirits. The peace of God passeth all understanding.

Closing remarks: Bro. Alvin Chupp.

Saturday Evening

Opening Devotions: Bro. Warren Smith. Text: Jude 1:25.

Praise God, we have the hope of being with Christ in Heaven. When Peter left the boat to walk to Christ on the water he was alright as long as he kept his eyes on Christ but when he looked around he started to sink and called for Jesus to save him. Are our eyes focused on Jesus?

Speaker: Bro. Frank Shaffer. Text: Luke 8:22-25.

Even the birds praise God. Where is "your Faith?" Are we going to wait until things go wrong to have faith in God? David had faith in God that He would help him slay Goliath. James 2:17. "Shall I find faith on earth when I return?" Without faith we cannot please God. In a foreign mission field the lightening had struck and killed a woman's husband. The medicine man had given her a small token that was supposed to keep lightening from striking her. She treasured this very highly but when she later accepted Christ she gave it to the missionary stating that Christ was all she needed now to protect her.

Closing: Bro. George Replogle.

Sunday Morning

Opening songs, "Amazing Grace" and "Each Step I Take Just Leads Me Closer Home."

Speaker: Bro. Melvin Roesch. Text: I Pet. 1:3-8.

Do we think of our home above as we should? Must we be carried on beds of roses?

A motto says, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

Rom. 6:23; Phil. 3:10-11; Jer. 18:1-6. May we like Paul attain unto the resurrection. I know whom I have believed. Paul made no halfway surrender to God.

Sunday A.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Laverne Keeney. Text: Luke 7:40-50.

May we be so happy as to hear Christ repeat the words to us that He spoke to the woman that annointed His feet. "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace."

First Speaker: Bro. Clyde Schultz. Text: James 1:26-27.

Pure religion and undefiled is to keep yourselves unspotted from the world. Phil. 4:8; II Tim. 2:22 and I Pet. 1:7 all tell us how to strengthen our faith and be acceptable in God's sight.

Second Speaker: Bro. David Ebling.

Let us give our all to Christ. Jer. 2:13. Do not give up the wells of living water for the broken cisterns referred to by Jeremiah or for some adulterated stream. I Pet. 3:18.

A boy swimming in the ocean got beyond his depth and was helpless. A man on shore seeing his danger grabbed a rope and tying one end around his waist he gave the other to some bystanders telling them to hold on to it. Plunging into the waves he reached the boy and called back to the ones on the shore, "Pull the rope." Somehow in the meantime the end had been dropped and

was beyond reach in the water. The result was that both man and boy drowned. How about our prayerline to God? Have we dropped the end? Let's hang onto the rope and keep the Dunkard Brethren Church by our prayers and our living.

Song at the close of his message: "I'll go where you want me to go I'll be what you want me to be."

Closing Devotions: Bro. Harry Gunderman.

If we have a pattern for something and intend to cut out a number at the same time, we will find that if we discard the pattern and cut the next one over the one just cut, and continue doing this our last one will be much larger and possibly cannot even be used. We must stay by our original pattern for each cutting. Jesus is our pattern. There is too much carnality in our lives and not enough spirituality.

Two brothers lived on adjoining farms. One had a large family and was not very rich. The other was a bachelor well supplied with this world's goods. At harvest time the bachelor decided to throw some sheaves across the fence and help his brother because he had such a large family. The other brother decided to throw some sheaves over the fence because his brother didn't have anyone to help him like he had. Do we desire to help each Brother and Sister as the need arises. What is a truly spirit filled life?

Bro. William Carpenter as moderator closed the meeting with this question: How do we feel when someone is better off than we are?

Dinner was not quite ready when services were dismissed, so the time was spent in singing which was an inspiration.

Sunday P.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. James Kegerreis.

Psalms 23, Jesus is our shepherd. John 10:2-16 gives Christ's version of the true shepherd and the safety of the sheep fold. Are we safe within the fold?

First Speaker: Bro. Paul Blocher. Subject: Convicted Conscience.

John 8:9. What is conscience? We have a good feeling when we do good and a bad feeling when we do evil. We can sear our conscience until it will not condemn us. Lev. 20:10. When we set a trap we camouflage it. The scribes and Pharisees called Him "Master", but did not mean it; they only wanted to trap Him. What did Christ write on the ground? Maybe, "Where is the man?" Their law said both the man and the woman were to be killed if caught in adultery. Christ is master of every situation. Gen. 42:21. Joseph's brethren were convicted by their consciences. Let us turn from our wrongs and follow Christ. Are we weighed in the balances and found wanting?

Second Speaker: Bro. Harley Flory. Subject: First Things First.

Pray that workers may be directed. Gen. 1:1-3. The first treasure is Jesus Christ but we find many other treasures in this world. When we accept Jesus Christ into our lives it is an experience, then our Christian life may become a tradition, an obligation, a responsibility, a convenience and finally a nuisance. Never forget that we were made to worship God. May we have the wisdom and knowledge to judge ourselves aright. The Lord Jesus will bridge the generation gap for us. Many Christians get the idea they are the landlord instead of the tenant. Christianity is an education in itself. Get yourself right with God first. Matt. 6:22-23; Gen. 1:2-3. God takes away the darkness. Power is a sound mind with love. Fear comes by disobedience.

Closing thoughts: It is good for us to be here. Peter felt the same way on the mount of transfiguration and wanted to stay. We can't stay on the mountain but let's take our mountain top experiences home with us.

Sunday Evening

Opening Devotions: Bro. Emery Wertz.

If Christ came and stood by this pulpit would we be frightened? Col. 3:1-25. Emphasis on verses 24-25. Sin is transgressing God's law.

First Speaker: Bro. Jacob Ness. Subject: Pressing Toward the Mark.

In the world if we press toward the mark we may not win, but in God's plan we are all winners if Christ dwells within.

IF

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving Friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
- Rudyard Kipling

Second Speaker: Bro. Edward Johnson.

In Noah's time the people sought higher ground but it disappeared. We can depend on our higher ground when we seek God.

Subject: The Ministry of Reconciliation. Text: II Cor. 5:17-21.

If sin comes to us we cut off our contact with God, but we can come back. There is enough rubbish in the world to break our contact. Titus 2:1-3. Sometimes we try making a telephone call to transmit a very important message and get no response. What if our call was to God? How happy we are when our call finally goes through. Just so, are we happy when we again establish our connection with God after sin has broken the line? Christ was willing to take ALL our sins to the cross.

Closing: Bro. Howard Myers.

Are we truly ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ? The Church can be only what we make it and it can be no better than its members. Let's help the Church instead of criticizing.

Monday Morning

Opening Song, "His Loving Kindness."

Speaker: Bro. Dale Jamison.

We are together as a family. Gen. 27:18-25. Abraham dug wells and built an altar. They were closed by the Philistines. Isaac re-

opened the wells and dug more and again built an altar to the Lord. We must profit from history and from our parents. We need to reopen our wells today. You people who are here care about the Church. These are forces that hold the family together.

Monday A.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Rudy Cover. Text: Psalms 37:1-9.

Trust in the Lord. Delight in the Lord. Paul and Silas delighted in the Lord for they sang while in prison. Rest in the Lord. We can't buy eternal life even if we had the entire world to give.

Bible Study: Teacher: Bro. Tom St. John. Subject: The Spiritual Ministry. I Cor. 3.

How much do we love the Lord? Our lives tell the story. How great is our responsibility? Freedom brings responsibility.

Heb. 8:10; Heb. 10. We sometimes feel self-sufficient but our strength comes only through the spirit. Paul says, "I can do all things Christ who strengthened me." We have liberty in Christ. The world does not read the Bible it reads YOU.

First Speaker: Bro. Dennis St. John. Subject: A People with a Purpose.

When we handle the Word let us be careful. It is good to have good habits, but if serving God is only a habit it is useless. Alexander Mack had a purpose and a goal to form a Christian Church. Dan. 1:8. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself. May we be Daniels. Elijah also had a purpose when he stood against the prophets of Baal. II Kings 22. Josiah became king at eight years of age and turned neither to the right or left as king. We have to look deep to find our belief. May we always be concerned how we look to God and not to man. We need to surrender daily to God. Can we give up our friends and our homes for God. Parents need to correct the first wrong words of a child and start training for God. Ezek. 34:11-12. Have we been a stumbling block to some lamb.

'Twas A SHEEP

Luke 15, John 16

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away
In the parable Jesus told:
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out in the wilderness, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought:
Back to the flock and into the fold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why, for the sheep should we earnestly long
And so earnestly hope and pray,
Because there is danger, if they go wrong
They will lead the young lambs astray.

For the lambs follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray:
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

So with the sheep we earnestly plead
For the safety of the lambs today
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
Some sheep may have to pay.

Jer. 20:9. His word was in my heart. May we have the right condition of heart to be used and the right purpose in our mind.

Closing remarks: Bro. Fred Pifer.

There are forces on all sides working against Christ. Nehemiah had a purpose, he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Stephen had a purpose, he lived and died for it.

Monday P.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Milton Cook. Text: Rev. 3:7-13.

The Philadelphia Church was poor but they were commended by the angel who spoke to John. Our beloved Church is not large in numbers but may we be true to God's Will.

First Speaker: Bro. Herman Jamison. Text: Gen. 2:7.

Our lives are the clay, God is the potter. We have many kinds of clay used in this world to fill various needs. Fire clay, pipe clay, paper clay and kiln clay. Clay is mixed with many things and must be properly cleaned in order to be used. The Master shapes a vessel from each of us that He can use. "Mold me and make me after Thy will." Place our lives in God's care so Satan cannot contaminate us. Isa. 64:8. Let's be a vessel filled and running over with God's spirit.

Second Speaker: Bro. Rudy Cover. Subject: Giants in the Land. Text: Num. 13:3.

Joshua and Caleb had faith in God and knew that by His help they could take the land. We have giants in our land.

Giant of unbelief. The schools do not teach the Bible but astrology, evolution and so forth. What if the sun didn't come up? Man believes it will but doesn't believe in the God who controls it.

Giant of Pride. Prob. 16:18. God cannot tolerate pride.

Giant of Covetousness. I Cor. 5:10-11.

Giant of Self-satisfaction. Luke 12:16-21.

Put on the whole armor of God. Eph. 6:11-18.

A friend is one who knows all about us and yet loves us. Is Jesus your friend?

Closing: Bro. Eldon Mallow.

The Master can take you and me and make something out of us. The biggest giant in the world is Satan.

- To be continued

Sister Ruth Drake

Rt. 3, Box 312, Manheim, Pa. 17545

RESTORED

In Galatians 6:1, we read, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Many times in our daily walk of life our frail bodies need to be restored, we see daily so many new drugs and things that help to keep our bodies in good health. We know when bones are broken, we become weak and we need something to restore us to health and strength. So in the Spiritual life some of us fall and we need to be restored. Here is where dear ones in the Church can help.

Are we willing to forgive and bring this dear one back into fellowship? Let us try to restore those, who have wandered off into sin, back into the world. God is not only able to heal our bodies but also our sin-sick soul.

Dear ones, let us not stop praying and working till these dear ones are safe within the fold. We all know, they all need the loving touch or a helping hand of those in the Church, so they can be restored into full fellowship and can find their place of usefulness in His service. My heart grieves for these dear ones who have wandered away. Let us pray that the Spirit of Christ will lead them back into the fold. Let us help bear each others burdens, and try to make their way a little brighter.

Sister E. M. Alltus



No one is delivered from temptation unless he is fully determined to keep out of it.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

GIDEON'S ARMY

JUDGES 7:1-8

Gideon was ready to lead Israel against the Midianites. The Midianites were camped in a valley close by. There were thousands of them and they were equipped to fight to destroy Israel. The Bible says that they lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude. How could Israel hope to fight so great an army?

Gideon had sent messengers to the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulon and Naphtali. There were thirty-two thousand men of Israel who came to Gideon to fight the Midianites. But do you know what God said? God said, "There are too many and if I give the Midianites into their hands they will think they did it by their own hand." God told Gideon to tell the people, "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart from Mt. Gilead." And there returned of the people twenty-two thousand and there remained ten thousand.

And God said to Gideon, "The people are yet too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them there. Everyone that lapped of the water with his tongue as a dog, him shall you set by himself; likewise everyone that boweth down upon his knees to drink." The number of them that lapped putting their hand to their mouth, were only three hundred men; all the rest bowed down upon their knees to drink. And God said, "By the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and deliver the Midianites into your hand."

So Gideon and his three hundred men were chosen to defeat an enormous army of Midianites. In our next Bible story we will see just how it was done.

God does not need the strength of man to carry out His purpose. He only wants us to trust Him completely. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31b. Sometimes it looks like we are overwhelmed with trials and there is no way out; "...but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13.

Brother Rudy Cover



Honest men fear neither the light nor the dark. — Thomas Fuller

MADE SONS

According to I Cor. 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4-5. God's Word teaches clearly that when one is redeemed, he is no longer under the Law. "Wherefore the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." "For ye are all children (sons) of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us.", Gal. 3:13 and "...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14. Of such John says, "...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12. "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Gal. 4:7.

This new relationship with God gives man a new motive and entitles him, as a son, to pray "Our Father which art in Heaven." He is led by the Spirit of God. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15.

The motive of the Son towards the Father is not fear, but love. God is love and this was manifested in the Son, who gave Himself for us. The love of Christ constraineth us that we be new creatures; old things will pass away.

In instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus, when he took the cup, said, "...this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many (those made sons) for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:28. He said also, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Why love Him? Because "this is the blood of the new testament." God had said plainly, "...without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22.

John writes to believers, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." I John 3:1. The one, who is redeemed and adopted as a son of God, not only purifies himself because prompted to by love for the Saviour for redeeming him from all iniquity, but because he is born again. This new nature leads him to hate sin and to love holiness. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." I John 5:1a. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of

incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Peter 1:23. "For ye are all the children (sons) of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26. "...ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15.

Concerning the Lord's Prayer. It is the possession and badge of the disciples of Christ (sons of God). "Our Father which art in Heaven." The disciples when alone with Jesus said, "Lord, teach us to pray." The answer they got is recorded in Luke 11. It was taught, by Jesus, to His chosen disciples - Christians - sons of God.

Brother Ray S. Shank

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation is looking forward to a one week revival meeting this fall. Our evangelist will be Bro. Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania.

These meetings will be from August 7 through August 14. We will conclude our revival with all day services August 13 and 14. The Lovefeast service will be on Saturday evening at 7:30.

We desire your earnest prayer for these meetings. A welcome to all who can, to come worship with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will hold Revival Meetings August 21 through September 4. Elder Jacob Ness of York, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

There will be forenoon and afternoon services September 3, with our Lovefeast at 7 p.m. that evening.

Our Harvest Meeting will be September 25.

We invite all, who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Swallow Falls Congregation plans their annual revival August 21 to August 28 with Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania as evangelist. Evening services 7:45 EDT each evening.

Lovefeast service Saturday, August 27 beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Your prayers and attendance at these meetings are solicited.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

AUGUST 15, 1977

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I AM THE WAY

While I was wand'ring in darkness lost,
One ray of sunshine my pathway crossed,
Turning my midnight to brightest day,
I heard Jesus saying, "I am the Way."

I am the Way, yes, I am the Way,
Wander no more from the fold astray.
Linger no longer, but come today,
Hear Jesus saying, "I am the Way."

When all my labor had proved in vain,
Nothing but doubt and despair remained,
When all my knowledge had seemed but ruth,
Then Jesus whispered, "I am the Truth."

When I was walking the way of death,
Drinking sin's poison at every breath,
Then one promise with hope was rife,
The promise of Jesus, "I am the Life."

He is the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Here is the peace that will end all strife,
Trust in the promise and come today
To Jesus, the Truth, the Life, the Way.

J. O. Barnhart

PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS

"And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan." Genesis 37:1. This verse speaks of Jacob dwelling in Canaan. He was not just passing through; he was not just living there for a short time before moving on to another land. He was established there. He had acquired great flocks and herds. He had enough to keep his sons busy watching his flocks. He was perhaps one of the substantial citizens of the land, looked-up-to by his neighbors. He had gained this prosperity and position in the land where his father Isaac had been a stranger.

That all was not well with Jacob and his family is evident from the hatreds and envyings that sprang up amongst his twelve sons. The older sons were quite a rough lot, even willing to murder Joseph although they eventually settled on selling him into slavery. Although about as bloodthirsty and full of hatred as the other brethren, Judah did prove to be a help for Joseph. Perhaps from this glimmer of love, we can faintly see the Descendant of Judah who would show the greatest love mankind would ever know. Even the pride and self-interest of Joseph shows that Jacob had not been able to train up his children in the way that they should have gone. The partiality shown in Jacob's treatment of Joseph, while it may be understandable, shows a lack of parental influence and example.

The problems that befell Jacob and his family, after they settled in Canaan permanently, flash as a warning beacon to the Church today. The Church today may be dwelling in a land where prior generations were strangers. Today the Church is often materially

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

prosperous and even looked-up-to by the world around but Spiritually weak. The Church fails today as Jacob did in caring for those who are put under her care. Where Jacob's sons were willing to go to great and immoral lengths to be rid of Joseph, today many of the members of the Church are willing to live contrary to God's revealed Will. Many are occupying Spiritual ground that would have counted their parents or grandparents as strangers. So many things are accepted and followed today that even a few decades ago were considered to be world's domain.

Isaac had been a stranger in this very land where Jacob was so well established. In the chapter of the Heroes of Faith (Hebrews 11) Paul speaks of them as being strangers and pilgrims, not sure of their final destination but knowing their present home was not permanent. They were looking "...for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Knowing they were not "at home" yet, they were but pilgrims - travelers going on to that better land. The present land was not the land they wanted, so they settled only for a little while then moved on again. They might be considered vagabonds or aliens by those around them, but the world's disapproval did not move them from their course.

Even today there are many in our own nation who are not citizens. There are various regulations which apply to them including the necessity of registering with the government each year. Aliens have few privileges but many responsibilities including that of paying taxes. Most of these aliens look forward to the day when they can become citizens.

The members of the Church are to be "strangers and pilgrims" as they pass through this world on the way to a Better Land. But too many have forgotten they are aliens and have made themselves "at home". They have grown prosperous and have gained position in the world just as Jacob did. The activities, programs and methods of the world have become the ways used by the Church to promote her interests. "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven," Phil. 3:20a. A person who is a citizen of one country has no rights of citizenship in another country. As citizens of Heaven we should pattern our conduct accordingly. Since we can not be citizens of two lands we must choose which will be our home and live accordingly. If we choose to live up to our heavenly citizenship we cannot live as if we are permanent settlers in this world, we are passing through. If we make ourselves too much at home here our families - flesh and blood as well as the Church family - will turn out like Jacob's family - proud, envious, hateful and merciless. Is that what we want?

Are you too comfortable in this world? Are you dwelling securely

where your ancestors were strangers? Are you sure you can live this way and fare any better than Jacob? "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve..."

DOES THE LORD KNOW YOU?

People say, "Oh, yes, I know the Lord; I've been saved." They are confident that if they know the Lord, the matter is settled and there's nothing more to it. But is that all there is to our relationship with Jesus? He said that not all who addressed Him as Lord would have a place in the kingdom of Heaven, but there would be some to whom He would say, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:21-23). If they really knew Jesus, why didn't He know them?

What does it mean to know someone? Is it merely recognizing someone you see, knowing his or her name, and so on? No; it means you must spend time with that person, learning his likes and dislikes, his goals and purposes. As you become better acquainted, a closer friendship develops, especially when two people have a lot in common. Knowing someone is more than just knowing who he is; it is knowing what he is!

What does this have to do with Jesus knowing you? If He knows you, you can truly say you know Him. It can't be a one-sided, casual relationship, but it must be a special, life-giving one. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and KNOW my sheep, and am KNOWN of mine." John 10:14. Sheep are dependent on their shepherd and they must know him well enough to follow where he leads, for their safety's sake. We likewise must know Jesus well enough to follow where He leads, for our soul's sake.

Jesus said of the Father, "But I know him, and keep his saying." John 8:55b. Jesus knew what pleased His Father, and He acted accordingly. When we say we know Jesus, He expects us to act like it. "He that saith, I KNOW him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4. "They profess that they KNOW God; but in works they deny him." Titus 1:16a. In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus said several times, "I KNOW thy works." You can't hide what you do behind something good that you say. Just saying you know the Lord will not save you.

"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they KNOW his voice." John 10:3-4. Christ already knows us if we are His, but we must also know some things about Him. We need to know who is speaking to us, so we know

when to move in faith and when to stay where we are. Sheep won't follow just anybody and we need to be careful to follow only Jesus.

"And to KNOW the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:19. We need to know Christ's love so we can have a full and complete life. Love increases our capacity so we have room to receive all the good things of God. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God." I Cor. 2:12. We need to know what is available to us from God, so the Spirit increases our knowledge of God and His will for us.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. We know Jesus loves us and we know whether or not we love Him, if we are honest with ourselves. But the way others know we belong to Christ is when we love one another. This is a testimony that they can see. If we have anything less than love for each other, it is evident in our actions. There is no use claiming to know the Lord, if we can't meet the basic requirement to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In Acts 26:27b, Paul said to Agrippa, "I know that thou believest." He also knew Agrippa wasn't yielding. When a Christian can perceive that someone believes, yet is not yielding, don't you think God knows? There is no use trying to get by on good deeds. The first step in yielding is to recognize that you are a sinner and you need the Saviour. The next step is acting on that knowledge and yielding yourself to Christ. When Jesus said, "I never knew you," He apparently was speaking to people who thought their good deeds were enough to save them. They hadn't yielded to Christ. Outside of Him, there is no salvation, no matter how good your conduct is.

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" Gal. 4:9. When you and God truly know each other, you will know you have been set free from sin. It would be utter foolishness to want to be bound again. Sin is a trap and it brings death; Jesus brings us life. "And this is life eternal, that they might KNOW thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3.

"For I KNOW whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." II Tim. 1:12b. We do need to know the Lord and to know that He knows us and will keep us from sin. Do you KNOW Jesus? Can you truly say that Jesus KNOWS you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

1977 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from August 1, 1977 Issue

Monday Evening

Opening Devotions: Bro. Harley Rush.

This is a beautiful day. Heb. 13:8. There are changes throughout the world. Christ is the same as when He walked on this earth. There are changes in weather, politics, the life of the world and yes, even in the Dunkard Brethren Church. We must contend for the doctrines of the Church.

First Speaker: Bro. Floyd Swihart.

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.

Subject: Jonah. Text: Matt. 12:41.

A greater than Jonah. God knows the intent of the heart. Nineveh had sinned so much God was grieved, yet He loved them. He sent Jonah to warn them of their sin but Jonah went the opposite way. He felt his life would be in danger if he went in the enemies camp. Are we "Jonahs" sometimes and go the opposite of God's commands? The Ninevites were God's enemies, yet He sent Jonah to save them, just as He sent Christ to save us.

Jonah had only a short message but a serious one. "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." God stopped Jonah on his opposite trip and gave him another chance. This time Jonah gladly obeyed. Acts 8:30-39. Phillip preached to the eunuch on God's command.

Second Speaker: Bro. Dale Jamison. Subject: What is Love? Text: John 13:31-38.

The greatest need of this world is love. John 13:34. Do we understand, "God is love?" "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another." Is love the greatest thing in the Church? It should be. "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another." Love is a gift. Love is the natural outcome of Jesus within. Love could transform our Church.

The neighbor's dog digs out your roses. What you say to him determines if he will ever go to Church with you. If we do not love our enemies we do not have God's love in our hearts. If we are in business we go all out to please our customers. Do we treat them better than our wives, husbands, children, Brothers and Sisters?

Closing: Bro. James Kegerreis.

A little boy heard the story of Jonah in Sunday School and told it to his father when he went home. His father asked if he really believed the whale swallowed Jonah. He quickly replied I would believe the Bible if it said Jonah swallowed the whale. Are we known by the love we show to our Brethren?

Tuesday Morning

Moderator Bro. Joseph Flora. How wonderful this family can come together to worship God.

Speaker: Bro. Harry Gunderman. Ps. 116; Ps. 1; Ps. 23; Ps. 119:65; Ecc. 12:13. Let us be aware that God knows our heart.

Closing song, "The Morning Light."

Tuesday A.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Dennis St. John. Text: Matt. 13:1-23.

It is the duty of some to sow. The seed has been sown the past few days. Let us not be one of the birds who picked up the seed. We need plants deeply rooted. Sun makes plants grow or dries them up. Trials and temptations can cause us to grow or to dry up.

Bible Study: Teacher: Bro. John Carpenter. Subject: Paul's Method of Ministering the Gospel. II Cor. 4.

Paul was stern yet he spoke with love. The god of this world hath blinded us. Jesus is the light, we are the reflectors. Maybe our reflectors need to be polished. We are only earthen vessels and God must fill us so we can be used of Him.

First Speaker: Bro. Eldon Mallow. Subject: The Church. Text: I Tim. 4.

Maybe we do not receive God's blessings because we do not do His will. We need to stand steadfast. If we want to have a holy Church we must reprove and rebuke. Some will not receive sound doctrine. What do we stand for and what kind of a Church are we building today? Matt. 16:18. There is only one true Church - the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Prov. 3:6. Do we acknowledge Christ in all we do? Christ is standing with outstretched hand asking us to keep His commandments. Ps. 37:5; I Tim. 4:14. Continue in the way of sound doctrine. Eph. 5:25. How much is lacking in our Church today? Let's live as near to God each day as we possibly can strengthened by His Spirit. We don't pray enough.

Closing: Bro. David Kegerreis. Text: Eph. 5:27.

What a picture of God's Church, one free from sin. Christ will only take the ones who are ready to meet the Bridegroom when He returns. He died for His Bride.

Closing song, "Cling to the Bible", as a climax to the morning's sermon.

Tuesday P.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Fred Pifer. John 6:51-71. Text verses 67-69.

On the wall of the camp dining room is a picture of a little boy sitting beside a large globe of the world which had a crack in it from top to bottom. He had a box beside him undoubtedly

containing mending supplies. Several pieces of string were near and he had tried to mend the crack with bandaids and pieces of tape. Our earth is cracked but Jesus is the only answer. I John 2:1-2.

First Speaker: Bro. Alvin Chupp. Subject: A Guaranteed Life through Christ.

We buy things in this life and want a guarantee with them. John 14:23 is our guarantee from Christ. Our thoughts run wild and we need to control them. Do we guarantee Christ we will give Him a perfect life. Gal. 3:2-7; Gen. 17:1; I Kings 2:4; I John 3:3-9. When God is in us we cannot sin. Our excuse is, "I didn't think." Fill your mind with good things and the devil can't get in. Do we realize all God has done for us? "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." John 10:28. What a guarantee! Heb. 10:26. We don't have to sin. Can we make an unconditional guarantee to God that we will not sin?

Bro. Chupp used two sticks as an illustration. One was a twig which could be bent in any shape and would have made no support to lean upon. The other was a sturdy limb which would have made a cane strong enough to walk with. Which are we? Some one who is bent by every idea that comes around or can we be a support for Christ to those around us.

Second Speaker: Bro. Milton Cook. Subject: Superstition. Text: Acts 17:16-31.

If things we have heard from our various speakers haven't helped us it is our own fault.

Superstition comes from Satan. Some superstitions, Friday the 13th is an unlucky day, it's good luck to carry a rabbit's foot in your pocket, it's bad luck to walk under a standing ladder. As Christians we are not interested in new things but in the old, old story of Christ. How can we think of God, who made us and everything around us, as a god made out of gold or silver? Isa. 44:9-16; Isa. 46:6-8. Can a tractor, house, automobile or money be a god to us? If we do not gather for Christ we are scattering. Do we look at the ordinances of the Church as just a tradition? Eternal security is a superstition.

Closing: Bro. Dennis St. John.

Solomon made his choice of wisdom, yet he fell. Ps. 102:9. David speaks of eating ashes like bread but ashes are not food. Are we choosing wrong food?

Tuesday Evening

Opening Devotions: Bro. William Root, who is totally blind, gave all his references from memory. His first remark was "We can't give anything except what He gives us." Ps. 23. We have in the world

easy believism. Is there a God? If so where is He? A little boy was taught in Sunday School about God and believed what he was taught. Upon reaching home he told his father what he had learned. His father who was a nonbeliever quickly replied, "I'll give you a quarter if you will tell me where God is." The boy just as quickly said, "I'll give you a quarter if you will tell me where He isn't." Rom. 1:16-17; Matt. 5:1-6. We cannot comprehend the love of God. Ps. 119:9; II Tim. 4:7. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Bro. Root was an inspiration. Although blind, God's word is still in his memory to comfort and strengthen him.

Speaker: Bro. Hayes Reed. Subject: Go Ye. Text: Matt. 28:19-20. This was our missionary sermon and Bro. Reed empathized that since Christ died for the world, it is our duty to see that God's Word is spread. Our early Church leaders were an inspiration as they traveled westward establishing Churches as they went. May we continue to tell others about our wonderful Saviour.

Closing: Bro. Ray Reed. Text: Jer. 8:20-22.

Let us go home and spread the Balm of Gilead. God cares. Do we?

Wednesday Morning

Speaker: Bro. James Kegerreis. Text: Ps. 51.

Sin separates us from God. David sinned and this Psalm is a plea to God for forgiveness. Sin has been cast out of Heaven and our sins must be put under the blood if we want to enter. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Our life here is our preparation for our home over there.

Business Session

Opening Devotions: Bro. Edward Johnson. Text: II Thess. 2:1-2.

May each one be lifted up by the fellowship of those of like precious faith and the inspiration of the messages from God's Holy Word.

A few sentences from his closing prayer. "Its been such a joy to be at Conference and it hurts to part. Point out to us our mistakes and help us to ask forgiveness and draw again close to Thy side."

The new officers of Conference were announced:

Moderator: Bro. Dale Jamison.

Reading Clerk: Bro. Jacob Ness.

Writing Clerk: Bro. Hayes Reed.

The delegate body was composed of twenty-six Elders, six Ministers and twenty-two Deacons.

The General Conference offering was \$1,914.80 and went to the Trustee Board. The Missionary offering was \$1,391.49 and went to

the General Mission Board. The Sunday School offering was \$1,127.01 and went to the Publication Board.

All business was taken care of in a Christ-like manner and the forty-ninth Conference was closed at 11:45 A.M. May God bless the Church throughout the coming year and may each member draw closer to God and may we be ready and waiting, if Christ should come.

Sister Ruth Drake

Rt. 3, Box 312, Manheim, Pa. 17545

CROWNS FOR CHRISTIANS

The Word of God points us to the following crowns for Christians: Incorruptible, I Cor. 9:25; Of Rejoicing, I Thess. 2:19; Of Righteousness, II Tim. 4:18; Of Glory, I Pet. 5:4 and Of Life, James 1:12.

Might we meditate on the last, James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." Reference to this crown is also found when the Lord comforts the Church in Smyrna, Rev. 2:10. In each of these two passages, we have suffering saints in view - children of God exposed to bitter trials. These trials or tribulations are a means of discipline, which result in lasting blessing "...unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:11.

When afflicted with a thorn in the flesh which was a messenger of Satan to buffet him, Paul besought the Lord thrice that he might be delivered from the trial. He was not delivered from this tribulation. But the word came to him from the Lord, "...My grace is sufficient for thee..." II Cor. 12:9. He was but living-out what he elsewhere tells his fellow saints, when he says, "...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:3-5.

Our restless hearts would cause us to flee from the trial, but we are called upon to be strong in the grace of endurance - to suffer in the flesh, rather than to yield to sin. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7b.

It has been truly said, "No one can put this world beneath his feet until he has seen a better world above his head." Eternal life is the gift of God and is ours by faith, upon believing. The crown of life is the reward for faithfulness. The reward will be only for those who

"strive lawfully" and have observed the rules laid down in the Word of God.

Much that is "highly esteemed among men" is an "abomination in the sight of God." Men may weary themselves to display a most commendable faithfulness to principles which they believe to be sound and right, only to find in "that Day" that that time and labor have gone for nought. Our THOUGHTS will not change God's Word. Let us seek to make every day count for the Lord, desiring, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." Psalms 37:23.

Moses weighed what Egypt could offer over against what God, by His Word, had promised to His people. He chose, "...rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season ... he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Hebrews 11:25-26. The busiest person can run the Christian race and thus win the incorruptible crown. What is needed is a heart for Christ.

With these meditations, may we, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." II John 8. "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." II Timothy 2:5.

These thoughts may lead the Christian reader to the Lord's own solemn warning to the Philadelphian Church, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11.

Brother Ray S. Shank

FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. About forty men were engaged in the writing of the Bible, during a period of about 1500 years, that is, from 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100.
2. These men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:21). They wrote not in words of human wisdom, but in words divinely taught. (I Corinthians 2:13).
3. The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,747 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The Old Testament contains 39 books; the New Testament, 27 books. In point of length, the average word of the Bible contains fewer than five letters. What a lesson for the fellow who has a mania for big words.
4. The word "Jehovah" occurs 6,855 times.
5. The word "Lord" occurs 1,833 times.
6. The word "and" occurs 46,277 times, and the word "reverend"

but once. (Psa. 111:9).

7. The Book of Esther contains ten chapters, but neither the word "Lord" nor "God" is to be found in it.
8. The middle chapter and the shortest is Psalms 117. It contains only two verses.
9. The middle verse in the Bible is Psalms 118:8.
10. The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs.
11. The middle chapter of the Old Testament is Job 29.
12. The middle verse of the Old Testament is II Chronicles 20:13.
13. The middle book of the New Testament is II Thessalonians.
14. The shortest verse in the Old Testament is I Chronicles 1:25; the longest, Esther 8:9.
15. The middle chapter in the New Testament is between Romans 13 and 14.
16. The middle verse in the New Testament is Acts 17:17.
17. The shortest verse in the New Testament in English is John 11:35, in Greek, I Thessalonians 5:16.
18. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9; it contains ninety words.
19. The longest word in the Bible is found in Isaiah 8:1.
20. All the letters of the alphabet except "j", are in Ezra 7:21.
21. The 19th chapter of II Kings and the 37th chapter of Isaiah are nearly identical.
22. The Old Testament was translated into Greek in Alexandria, Egypt about 270 B.C.
23. The Bible holds the distinction of being the first printed book; it was first printed in 1450.

- To be continued

Selected by Brother W. E. Bashor

MARRIAGES

JOHNS - CASS

Sis. Doris L. Johns, daughter of Bro. and Sis. David B. Johns, R. 1, Paradise, Pennsylvania and Bro. Lauren Cass, son of Bro. and Sis. Walter J. Cass, R. 1, Leesport, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage June 18, 1977 at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church.

Bro. Jack Snyder performed the ceremony after a sermon by Elder Laverne Keeney. The couple will make their home at R. 1, Bernville, Pennsylvania 19506.

BURKHOLDER - EBERLY

Miss Ann Louise Burkholder, daughter of Mrs. Helen Burkholder and the late Eli Burkholder, R. 2, Bernville, Pennsylvania and Bro.

Mark Dale Eberly, son of Bro. and Sis. Mark Eberly, R. 1, Richland, Pennsylvania were united in marriage June 25, 1977 at the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church. The ceremony was conducted by Elder Allen Eberly after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis. Opening devotions were conducted by Daniel Horning, a minister of the Mennonite Church.

The couple will make their home at R. 2, Bernville, Pennsylvania 17506.

WOLFE - AUNGST

Sis. Anita Wolfe, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Verling Wolfe, R. 1, Bethel, Pennsylvania and Bro. Dale Aungst, son of Mr. Dory and Sis. Mae Aungst, R. 3, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania were united in marriage July 2, 1977 at the home of the bride. The ceremony was conducted by Elder James Kegerreis after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis.

The couple will make their home at R. 1, Richland, Pennsylvania 17087.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Daniel C. Skiles is 6560 Sonoma Mt. Road, Santa Rosa, California 95404. His telephone number now is 707-544-1472.

SOUTH FULTON, ILLINOIS

The South Fulton Congregation plans to hold their annual Love Feast September 3 and 4. Lord willing, there will be services Saturday afternoon with Love Feast in the evening and all day services on Sunday. If you cannot be with us in person, would you remember us in prayer? Every individual and Church is having trials in these latter days and how we need the Saviour.

Sister Martha I. Harmon, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Lititz Congregation is planning a Revival Meeting, September 4th through September 18th with Bro. Fred Pifer from Adel, Iowa as the evangelist.

The Lititz Congregation enjoyed another Love Feast Saturday afternoon May 14th. Visiting ministers present were Elder Frank Shaffer, Bro. Paul Hartz, Bro. John Pepper, Bro. David Kegerreis and our Elder James Kegerreis. There was one Sister received into the Church by baptism. In the evening there were about one hundred thirty who surrounded the table with Bro. David Kegerreis officiating.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing the Goshen Congregation will hold Revival Meetings from September 4 through 18 with Bro. Allen Eberly as evangelist. The first Sunday of these meeting will be our Harvest Meeting. We invite you to worship with us and ask that you also remember us in prayer.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation is planning a Revival Meeting September 12th through September 25th. Elder Dean St. John will be our evangelist. Come, worship and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR SEPTEMBER**

Sept. 4 — The Opening of the Seventh Seal and Four Trumpets. Rev. 8:1-13.

Sept. 11 — The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets Sound. Rev. 9:1-21.

Sept. 18 — The Angel with the Little Book. Rev. 10:1-11.

Sept. 25 — The Two Witnesses. Rev. 11:1-19.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What significant thing concerning all saints of God was offered upon the golden altar before the throne? Rev. 8:3.
- (2) What plague came upon those who didn't have the seal of God in their foreheads? Rev. 9:3-4.
- (3) Even though a third part of men were killed for their wicked deeds, what did those that remained alive, fail to do? Rev. 9:20-21.
- (4) Compare the mighty angel described in Rev. 10:1 with the vision of the Lord that John had on Patmos. Rev. 1:14-16.
- (5) Do you think the "little book" could be the Book of Revelation?
- (6) What did the two witnesses have power to do? Rev. 11:6.



If we had no failings ourselves we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others. —Rochefoucauld

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

VICTORY FOR ISRAEL

JUDGES 7:9-25

The army of Midian was gathered in a large valley ready to fight Israel. There were thousands of men. They were like grasshoppers for multitude and their camels were without number. Here was an army that had the best equipment of that time. They were trained to fight. The Midianites had even persuaded others to help them. The Amalekites and all the children of the east were there to help drive the Israelites out of the land. God chose Gideon and three hundred brave men to go against this mighty army and save Israel. How could they do it? - only three hundred men against so many!

The Midianites were superstitious people. God caused one of the men to have a dream. Gideon and his servant went down to the Midian army to look for a sign from God. As they drew near the camp, the man who had the dream said to another soldier, "I dreamed a dream and lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came into the tent and smote it and it fell, and overturned it." And his companion said, "This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon, a man of Israel: for into his hand has God delivered Midian and all his army."

When Gideon heard the dream, he was convinced that Israel would win the battle. A rumor had started in the Midian camp. As the dream was retold to others, God used it to put fear in the hearts of the Midian soldiers. An army that is afraid of the enemy, is a poor army.

So what did Gideon do? He divided his three hundred men into three companies. He gave each man a trumpet and a pitcher with a lamp in the pitcher. It was dark and in the middle of the night. Gideon and his men came close to the outside of the camp. When they had surrounded it from every direction, Gideon blew his trumpet and his three hundred men did the same. Then they broke their pitchers so the lamps inside could shine. They cried out, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

The Midianites were completely taken by surprise. The sound of trumpets - the lights shining from every direction - the yelling, seemed to them like a great army was attacking. Most of them had been asleep and woke up in a turmoil of confusion. Thinking that the Israelites were among them, they fought against themselves - killing one another - striking every man they came to. The strategy of Gideon and the Lord in helping to confuse the enemy ended in a complete victory for Israel. Only three hundred men with God helping them, won the battle against thousands!

God is able to help us even when it seems impossible. God's power is not limited. "He has done all things well." Mark 7:37.

Brother Rudy Cover

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1977

Memory Verse: Psalms 119:87

They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts.

Thur. 1-Psalms 119:73-104

Fri. 2-Psalms 119:129-152

Sat. 3-Pro. 5:1-23

Memory Verse: Isa. 1:28

And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

Sun. 4-Isa. 1:1-15

Mon. 5-Isa. 1:16-31

Tues. 6-Isa. 7:1-25

Wed. 7-Isa. 10:1-17

Thur. 8-Isa. 10:18-34

Fri. 9-Isa. 16:1-14

Sat. 10-Isa. 27:1-13

Memory Verse: Isa. 29:20

For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

Sun. 11-Isa. 29:1-24

Mon. 12-Isa. 64:1-12

Tues. 13-Isa. 66:1-24

Wed. 14-Jer. 5:1-31

Thur. 15-Jer. 8:1-22

Fri. 16-Jer. 9:1-26

Sat. 17-Jer. 10:1-25

Memory Verse: Jer. 5:3

O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Sun. 18-Jer. 12:1-17

Mon. 19-Jer. 14:1-22

Tues. 20-Jer. 16:1-21

Wed. 21-Jer. 20:1-18

Thur. 22-Jer. 24:1-10

Fri. 23-Jer. 27:1-22

Sat. 24-Jer. 36:1-32

Memory Verse: Jer. 14:15

Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

Sun. 25-Jer. 44:1-30

Mon. 26-Lam. 3:1-36

Tues. 27-Lam. 3:37-66

Wed. 28-Eze. 13:1-23

Thur. 29-Eze. 34:11-31

Fri. 30-Dan. 2:27-45

Memory Verse: Eze. 13:14

So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Dan. 2:44

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THOU ART THE WAY

Thou art the Way, to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek,
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.

Thou art the Truth, Thy word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind
And purify the heart.

Thou art the Life, the rending tomb
Proclaims Thy conqu'ring arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life,
Grant us that way to know;
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

- G. W. Doane

ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER

The world around us is an increasingly unchurched world. For many going to Church is an awful burden to be borne as least often as possible. Even for many who do attend services, it is but a formality to ease their consciences a little. Is attendance at Church a burden, a nuisance, an aggravation or a joy to you?

There are many opportunities for not attending Church placed in each person's way. Many activities call for our attention and participation. Some of these activities are wrong, no matter what day of the week they are held, but many are harmless in themselves. These activities prove harmful when they draw us from our first duty and joy.

The words of Christ, as revealed to John, to the Church at Ephesus are applicable to us. His rebuke was that they had left their first love. What is our first love - the scenery of the mountains, deserts and beaches, the comfort of the bed or sofa at home or the excitement of the ball park or the race track? What does come first? Certainly, if physically able, if Christ is our First Love, our All-in-All, we should desire being where He wants us - in Church.

Filling our place in Church is not merely a fulfillment of our duty toward Him, who loved us and gave Himself for us. It is a time of encouragement, when we are strengthened by being with and worshiping with those of like precious faith. When we are at our accustomed place at Church, whether lay members or officials, we are showing to our neighbors and to our fellow members that we place our Spiritual values above the temporary pleasures of this world. The Bible is the Word of God but because our earthly minds

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

are so limited, we can never know all that is within It's pages. When we attend Sunday services we have the opportunity to know more of its eternal truths. The discussion and proclamation of the Word adds to our own understanding. If we then allow the Spirit to direct our living according to that which we know and learn on these occasions, we will grow in our Christian lives and stature. But it is not only us but our children who will be learning. Repetition is one of the greatest aids to learning. Although we may think of it as boring, it is by its oft repetition that we learn many things. Not the least of that learning is the Word of God and its stories and lessons for us. It is by repetition that memory verses are fixed in the mind along with songs and moral lessons that are repeated again and again. Church is for the children as well as adults, for it is as they often hear the old, old story that it becomes established in their young minds. It is amazing what babies, infants and small children can learn from being in the services with their parents. Not only do they hear the Gospel repeated over and over but they learn, eventually, the discipline needed to listen and behave.

Satan seems able to bring all sorts of circumstances to keep one away from Church. The Apostle Paul had many "circumstances" in his life that could have kept him from serving God. In the many disasters and persecutions that befell him, he could have found many reasons for not going on to serve God. Our "circumstances" can hardly be as severe as his, yet how often do they keep us home from Church or even lead us away from Church to other activities?

In Hebrews 10:19-25, Paul lists for us several duties that are ours. First he has us understand that we have received through Christ a new and living way and that we have a high priest, not according to the old, dead law but according to God's living law. Therefore we are to appropriate the plan of salvation, through faith, repentance and baptism. We are to prove faithful in the Christian endeavor that we might live a pure, holy and true life. Our endeavor as a Christian is not only for our own good and growth but also for others. So often our provoking in this life is to anger and hatred but as Christians our goal should be the very opposite. One part in these duties is that of assembling ourselves together, that earnest exhortation might be made to one another through the ministering of the Word and the ordinances of the House of God. We have precious promises given us through Christ but they can only be secured through living up to the duties matched with them.

Where will next Sunday morning find you? Will you be provoking your Brethren to love and good works, learning more of the Word of God, teaching your children by the hearing of the Word and by seeing the lives of fellow members, setting a good example for

those who watch you and encouraging your fellow believers and the officials? Or will you be forsaking the assembling of ourselves together?

THE HOUR IS COME

Impatient hearts want action now,
We fear God's time will be too late.
How prone we are to rush ahead,
When God says, "Wait!"
His schedule always runs on time,
Tho' years seem days and days seem years,
But happy he who moves God's pace
And has no fear.
Not fast or slow God's time-piece is,
So let us set our time with His.

- Author unknown

God has a time-table. "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:32-33. Verse 37, "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch!"

In Eccl. 3, we are told by King Solomon, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Read the whole chapter. In fact, God's time-clock was started when God said, "Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Gen. 1:3-5.

Yes, it will keep perfect time, even to Rev. 10:5-6, which is yet to come. "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."

Way back in time, God was grieved because of the wickedness of man. "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them." Gen. 6:6-7. Time could have stopped right there, but the Bible says, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Verse 9b says, "Noah walked with God." God saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the great flood of waters.

Every living thing not in the Ark was destroyed. God promised Noah that never again would He destroy every living thing by flood. He put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise. What a beautiful manifestation of His Promise that we can still see the rainbow. Read the story in Gen. 9.

The Book of Daniel has much to say of the time of the end. Gal. 4:4-5 tells us, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,.... that we might receive the adoption of sons." Jesus' birth had been prophecied for hundreds of years. The Jews were looking for their Messiah, but until the fulness of time came, when God had it marked on His time-table, Jesus was not born. It was time for the fulfilling of the Law and the adoption of the Gentiles. It was the beginning of the time of Grace. When Jesus prayed to His Father in John 17:1b, He said, "the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee." Jesus came as a Bethlehem Baby at the time appointed by God. He lived His thirty-three years doing His Father's will, even to the appointed hour of His death. All on time. Then at the appointed time, three days later, He arose. He lives! Praise God! He lives!

I have heard people say, "I wish I could have lived in Jesus' time or I wish I could have been born in a different age." Wishful thinking! We were born in the time God planned for us. The condition our world is in makes us think of the scripture, Matt. 24:37-39, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." We cannot hasten or delay His coming, but our time is now. Whether Jesus comes in our lifetime or not, when we die our time to live and do for the Lord is past.

I remember attending the funeral of an old man many years ago. At the close of the service the Minister quoted a poem.

THE DIAL OF LIFE

Upon the earth a Babe is born
In the dark of the early morn;
The little life is thus begun,
List! In the hush the clock strikes ONE.
Tiny, dainty, unconscious feet
Setting out on Mundane Street.
In this world so strange and new,

On it's circuitous round the clock strikes TWO.
Down into babyhood's dim path
Leaning on Mother—as a staff,
Trusting and loving as can be,
Quietly now the clock strikes THREE.
Dawn is breaking in the East
Amid this awakening the clock strikes FOUR.
Infancy gone - childhood is here
Flooded with happiness, touched with fear.
Buzzing around like a bee at the hive,
Joyously busy - the clock says FIVE.
Almost too soon the schooldays come,
Books and learning, work and fun,
Existence flows in endless rhyme,
Till on startled ears - SIX - sounds it's chime.
Time seems to pass much faster now,
Recording changes in form and brow.
Fair youth in all it's strength we see.
The clock strikes SEVEN - Can it be?
A few years of learning ways and means,
Blending labor, pleasure and rosy dreams.
The future in view, and at last a mate;
With musical chime the clock strikes EIGHT.
The tumultuous world is hard to face,
Success requires such a rapid pace,
And other lives fall into line
To work for - as the clock strikes NINE.
Turbid and fast is the ebbing tide,
Upon which Mortals are forced to ride;
Uphill the grades. Hurrying then
The clock is scarcely heard at TEN.
Elderly now - though burdened still,
The steps go slowly down the hill,
And often pause to think of Heaven,
Sometimes, lonely too—when it's ELEVEN.
Old age arrives and the hair is white,
Life has been sweet, though hard to fight.
Much thought for others - little of self,
The soft, slow strokes are counting TWELVE.
All around Time's Dial on the earth,
Full three score and ten since the hour of birth.
It is ended here: A new Life begun

On Eternity's shores, as the bell tolls ONE.
The Hour is come.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave., Waterford, Ca.

WHEN GOD TAKES EVERYTHING AWAY

"When God takes everything away, it is so He can give you something better." Have you ever had everything taken away from you, especially what you consider important? Job did. When God removed the hedge from about Job, Satan thought sure he could destroy Job's soul by taking his possessions, his children and finally, his health. Job's grief was very great, as everything was wiped out in a very short time. He apparently expected to go to his grave as empty as when he was born (see Job 1:21), but this was not God's plan for him.

With everything gone and his misery so great that he wished he had died when he was born, Job couldn't see how anything could be better than what he'd had before. He longed to be blessed as before (see Job 29:2) and after his suffering was over, God did bless him in a special way. Job 42:10 says, "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." He was given a family again, too, but even more important, God said, "for him will I accept." Job was free and could serve God again, but now it would be different for he really understood God. (Job 42:5).

What Job had before his suffering was good, but there was something better available which God wanted him to have. Before he could have it, he had to lose what he had and that meant much suffering. In addition to the loss of family, health and finances, Job suffered because it seemed that God wasn't hearing his requests. He felt forsaken. Satan expected Job to turn away from God, but Job chose to remain faithful. He knew it would be the best in the end. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Job's bit of hope brought him a wonderful blessing.

Abraham left his homeland at God's bidding, leaving everything behind. He suffered in his dealings with Lot, who selfishly took the best pasture, and so forth, and caused him other trouble as well. Sarah and Hagar caused more trouble. Many times a Christian suffers because of the sins of others, but when we choose to follow the Lord, He will bless and care for us. He will give us something better in due time if we will wait on Him.

When God empties you of yourself and asks you to leave every-

thing behind, He gives you something else instead. He doesn't leave anyone empty and forsaken. God gave Abraham a new dwelling place. He kept His promise concerning Isaac, even though He severely tested Abraham when He told him to offer Isaac for a burnt offering. Don't you think Abraham's heart was breaking as he made preparation to slay Isaac? Abraham went all the way with God, even though it meant suffering and he was richly blessed.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Pet. 5:10. This suffering is not permanent; it is only for a limited time. It helps to make you perfect to strengthen you spiritually and it does make you more settled. After you suffer much, you are more at peace and less easily shaken. You become more certain of your relationship with God, because you have experienced His care during the most trying circumstances.

Why must you suffer before you can receive the best that God wants to give? It takes suffering to make self die. Until this happens, God can't bless us as He wants to because we're not ready to receive it. God also desires fruit of us and there can be none without death of self. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. The kernel gives itself entirely to making a new plant and dies in the process. The fruit then follows. We also must die to self in order to bear fruit. This means that God must take everything else away before He can bless and use us. This is why the greatest blessing comes following the greatest suffering.

Has God ever taken everything away from you? He possibly hasn't taken your family or possessions, but still things can happen which will make you feel forsaken. At such times, those who should help you most may turn against you, as Job's wife and friends did. Your suffering may seem unbearable, but God knows how much you can take and He will limit it to that. When it's over, God will bless you, maybe not as Job was, but surely He will increase your spiritual blessings. There will be a closeness to Him that you never experienced before.

As you look back on your suffering, you will likely see where God removed impurities or softened your temperament and helped you to be more like Jesus. You will know that you are more of what God wants you to be. Suffering which comes just because of your own foolishness may not accomplish much, but when God's hand is in it, it will. Yes, when God takes everything away, it IS so He can give you something better!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"THE LORD SHALL RULE OVER YOU"

JUDGES 8:4-35

Gideon and his three hundred chased the fleeing army of the Midianites. Gideon wanted to capture the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmuna. Tired and hungry, Gideon and his army came to the city of Succoth. Gideon asked the princes of Succoth for bread that his men might eat. They refused to give them anything to eat, because they still feared what was left of the Midianite army. They didn't trust God. Gideon said, because they refused to feed his army, that when he had captured the two Midian kings, he would return and teach them with thorns and briars. I suppose he meant he would whip them for refusing to help. Then he went to a city called Penuel. The men there refused to feed his army also. Gideon told them that when he came back he would tear down their tower.

The Midianite army was camped and unprepared for battle when Gideon attacked it. Gideon's army killed one hundred and twenty thousand of the enemy. Only with God's help could three hundred men do so much. The two kings fled for their lives. Gideon pursued and captured Midian's two kings. As they returned to Succoth, Gideon entered the city and took the elders and did to them as he had promised. When he came to Penuel, he beat down the tower they prized so highly and killed the men of that city.

When the men of Israel saw that Gideon had utterly destroyed the Midianite army and that God was with him, they wanted to make him a king. They said, "Rule over us and thy son and thy son's son also, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

How many men would have refused an offer like that - to be king of Israel? But, do you know what Gideon said? Gideon said unto them, "I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: The Lord shall rule over you."

Gideon knew that God was the ruler of Israel. God had helped him in a mighty way to overcome the Midianite enemies of Israel. He wasn't about to take the place of God. And Israel had peace for forty years in the days of Gideon.

Gideon was an humble man and gave God the credit for the victory over Israel's enemy. We should always thank and praise God for what He does for us. God is our helper in every time of need.

Brother Rudy Cover

YOUR EYES SHALL SEE THE KING

We can look ahead with joy to where the clouds are already parting, when we read, "Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty...", Isaiah 33:17. The thought, here, is quite different from Pilate's words, when he delivered Jesus to be crucified, "Behold your King!" John 19:14. To those, who rejoice in the glorious hope of the near return of the Lord, the first text produces a special thrill of eager expectation. The Bible drives home one inescapable truth - all men must ultimately appear before God.

The first group to behold the Lord in His glory are the "dead in Christ" I Thess. 4:15. "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." There is a note of supreme comfort in this truth.

Paul based his preaching on the certainty of the resurrection, declaring, "But if there be no resurrection of the dead... then is our preaching vain...", I Cor. 15:13-14. He is very clear in his teaching that there are bodies terrestrial and bodies celestial, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." I Cor. 15:53.

Every cell of the human body is replaced during the course of each seven years. This suggests that the terrestrial body is not so substantial as we are inclined to think, for it is in a continual state of decay and replacement. The celestial body, however, is not only eternal, but its structure is incorruptible, being immune from decay. It is therefore more real and substantial than this present, physical body.

The Bible is equally clear about the second group. It goes on to define the hope of those who are "living in Christ." "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:17.

- To be continued
Brother Ray S. Shank

OUR CHILDREN

Prov. 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I wonder so many times, as I read this verse, if I have tried my best to bring up my two sons for the Lord. When they were young, they came into the Church and we always attended. But today, I am sorry to say they don't go to Church. What is wrong? Am I to blame? I shed a lot of tears and

pray night and day for their return to the Dear Lord. Why cannot they see that the Christian Life is the only life to live? It could give them peace of mind while living here and a home in Heaven when this life comes to an end. So many are taken out of this life with out one minute's warning. Where? O, Where will they spend eternity?

I remember reading a story, when I was young, about a Mother's son. He would go out every evening. As he would be ready to leave each evening, his dear Mother would say, "Son, please, don't spend your money for fun and drink, this is not having a good time, as you always called it." Never a night, did she fail to warn him saying, "Be home early tonight, dear boy." One night as he was ready to leave he found his dear Mother with a high fever and very sick, but this did not stop him. He still made plans to go. As he was ready to leave, Mother said, "Dear boy, I may never have the chance again to tell you. Please, be home early tonight and don't spend your money for fun or a good time as you call it when you drink. Do be home early tonight." Oh, how his heart did ache, when he returned home and found that she had gone Home to the Dear Lord, she loved and served. He told how the cold chills o'er his body did roll, as he would hear those last words she said, over and over again. "Don't spend your money for drink, come home early tonight." This is what he wrote.

Dear young men won't you take my advise? Listen to your Fathers and Mothers. A good Mother's love can never be forgotten. I am sure, when she is gone, that you will have lost your best friend. Take my Mother's Motto that she left me, "Keep good hours at night my dear boy." Many times, children, your parents pray night and day for you. There are some who do heed the call and come back before it is too late. A mother still loves you even if you have gone so far that you are dressed in rags. She would give her very life for you.

Sometimes you have to get so far off in sin and poverty, before you come to yourself and come back to Christ. Ask him and He will help you like He did the Prodigal Son. Don't put it off, dear children. Come back while she is still with you and can heal her broken heart. Remember, there is a God above who loves us all. Many times, I am sure, you have wished to be a little child again and hear Mother tell you how she loves you. Many of us would give a lot to start life over again, so we could blot out all our mistakes and sins. There is a way you can do that. Come back to Christ if you have wandered away or if you have never known Him, today, is the day of Salvation. All your past sins will be washed away. Won't you listen to that still small voice? "Come unto Me."

Sister E. M. Alltus

TWO YOUNG MEN

Two young men met on the street,
 They were brothers, you could see;
 One was dressed in uniform.
 With God's love in his heart;
 He held the other's hand and said,
 "Dear brother, must we part?"
 Won't you come with me tonight,
 I hear one brother say,
 "Christ, he loves you, brother dear,
 He's pleading night and day.
 Come with me to the Armory.
 And there give God your heart,
 And meet our mother in Heaven above
 Where loved ones never part."
 "No, I must go and join the boys,
 And have another spree,
 Then I will promise faithfully
 It'll be the last for me.
 And I will come tomorrow night,
 And evermore do right.
 So, now dear boy, I must leave you
 Until tomorrow night."
 Tomorrow night it never came
 To that poor soul again;
 Christ had called him from this world,
 So full of guilt and stain.
 His brother by the coffin stood,
 Then with a tear dimmed eye,
 Remembering his last words were,
 "I'll come tomorrow night."

- Selected by Sis. E. M. Alltus



He alone is a man, who can resist the genius of the age, the tone of fashion, with vigorous simplicity and modest courage. —Levater



Faith is the root of all good works; a root that produces nothing is dead. —Wilson

FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Continued from August 15, 1977 Issue

24. The first Bible printed in this country was in the Indian language in 1663. This translation was made and published by John Eliot, the so called "Apostle to the Indians." This is the earliest example of the whole Bible translated and printed in a new language for the purpose of evangelization.
25. The first English Bible printed in this country was in 1782.
26. The first translation of the Bible made in America was printed in 1808. It was the work of Charles Thomson.
27. It is not generally known that Noah Webster, author of the famous "Websters Dictionary" and the "Blue-Back Speller", made a translation of the Bible, which was published in 1833.
28. The King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611.
29. The Revised Version of the whole Bible was issued in 1885.
30. The American Standard edition was published in 1901.
31. The Bible was divided into chapters by Cardinal Hugo in 1250.
32. The New Testament was divided into verses by Sir. Robert Stephens in 1551.
33. The whole Bible, divided into chapters and verses, first appeared in 1560 in what is known as the "Geneva Bible." It was so called because it was prepared by the Reformers in Geneva. It is also called the "Breeches Bible", because Genesis 3:7 is translated: "They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves breeches."
34. The Bible is the most translated book in the world. It has been translated into more different languages and dialects than any other book that has been written.
35. The Bible continues to be the best seller in the world.
36. The Bible is the best book in the world.
37. It is the only book that reveals the origin, mission, and destiny of man.
38. It is a text book on salvation.
39. There is no conflict between the Bible and the facts of science. There may be many conflicts between the Bible and the theories of so called scientists, and between the facts of science and the theories of so called "Bible scholars."
40. Above all things, the Bible should be studied and obeyed and taught.

Selected by W. E. Bashor

DOGS

"And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied. ...For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Psa. 59:14, 15; Rev. 22:15.

It would be impossible for us, without a knowledge of conditions in the Land where the Book was written, to understand the Bible allusion to the dog. With our views of the love and faithfulness of this noble domestic animal, the contempt in which he is held by all the Bible writers is inexplicable. In our homes we do not have a more intelligent, faithful, obedient animal than the dog, and his faithfulness to and his love for his master have passed into proverbs. Why, then, does the Bible invariably place such a low estimate on the canine? Why is he mentioned only in terms of contempt in the Book? Under the law of Moses these animals were considered unclean and unfit for human association, and wherever reference is made to them only offensive expressions are used. Among the Jews no greater insult could be offered to a man than to compare him to a dead dog. The name is applied to any one who has lost all modesty and who prostitutes himself by committing any abominable practice. In the New Testament they are classed among idolaters, murderers, sorcerers and whoremongers, and the Psalmist applies the name dog to the devil when he says, "Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog."

But one only need visit the towns and cities of Palestine and the Orient to understand fully why dogs are held in such low estimation and why only terms of contempt are used when they are spoken of. In Jerusalem, Damascus, Smyrna, Constantinople and other Oriental towns and cities great numbers of dogs infest the streets and make night hideous with their snarling, barking and howling. They are houseless, homeless and ownerless, and are veritable street scavengers, living on refuse and carrion. They are poor, lean and mangy, and in some places are so numerous that it is not only difficult but at times dangerous to go about the streets. The writer has often been compelled to leave the sidewalk and walk in the street to avoid a disreputable lot of dogs. By some instinct they combine into gangs and these have a well defined portion of the city as their own, and woe to the luckless, hairless, mangy cur that wanders on forbidden ground. When this occurs a

dead dog is the result, and when a number invade hostile territory as they often do at night the howling and barking and fighting are incessant and preclude all possibility of sleep. After spending a few months in an Oriental city one is quite ready to accept the low estimate placed on dogs in the Bible.

- Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's "Eternal Verities"

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Dean St. John is: R.R. 1, Camden, Michigan 49232.

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the dear Brethren and Sisters and friends for the lovely cards, letters, gifts, prayers and visits during my three weeks in the hospital and two months in a Nursing Home.

May God richly bless each one of you and keep you in His care and will.

Sister Ada Whitman

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all our dear friends for their messages of sympathy and for the prayers offered in our behalf in our time of sorrow. Your kindness during this trial in our lives will long be remembered.

The family of Danny Lorenz

THANK YOU

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the cards, gifts, prayers and visits when I fell and broke my arm, and also for the sympathy cards we received when our sister, Ruth J. Hummer, passed away.

May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Sister Anna B. Johns

TELEPHONE CHANGE

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE FATHER'S HAND

While through this changing world below
I would not choose my path to go;
'Tis Father's hand that leadeth me,
Then O how safe His child must be.

Sometimes we walk in sunshine bright,
Sometimes in darkness of the night;
Sometimes the way I cannot see
But Father's hand still leadeth me.

Sometimes there seems no way to take,
But Father's hand a way doth make.
Sometimes I hear Him gently say,
"Come follow Me, this is the way."

Why should I mind the way I go?
His way is best for me, I know.
He is my strength, my truth; my way,
He is my comfort, rod, and stay.

So on we travel hand in hand,
Bound for the heavenly promised land
Always through all Eternity,
I'll praise His name for leading me.

— Ida L. Cornett
Selected by Sister Shirley Frick

EMPTY LIVES

From time to time we hear of the death of individuals who have been famous for one reason or another. A period of mourning is observed by those who have been interested in this person's life. Kind words are expressed, an impressive funeral is held, the grave is covered with expensive bouquets, while some mourners nearly worship their deceased hero. Too often the kind words and the flowers are given after death rather than before when that one could have enjoyed them.

Too often, although a great sorrow and mourning go out over the land at the death of the famous, on closer examination it is found that so many of these deceased idols have had empty lives. Perhaps that very emptiness is what calls forth such a hysterical and prolonged time of mourning. Their fans try to provide, even in death, that which they lacked in life. Riches, fame and position are sought by many and found by a few. Even those, who have succeeded at garnering the goods and adulation of this world, often have a great void in their lives. Their priorities have been amiss so their lives, though full of the world's best, are empty of God's best. The misdirected of our day are not the first to make this fatal mistake. The Bible tells of many who had much but whose lives were empty, especially when they came to the hour of departing from the world, which they had valued so highly.

One of the empty lives the Bible speaks of is that of Absalom. Here was a young man who was favored with position, beauty and a charming personality. Rather than to be content with the favor he had received as a favorite son of David, he longed for even greater honor and glory. He stole the hearts of the men of Israel away from

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

his own father, King David. He was devious, rebellious and bold. He was able to mount the most serious threat against David in all his long reign. But even in the midst of his rebellion he failed to hold the allegiance of those who were with him. His life was empty of that which was an honor to God. He had not grasped the most important things of life. He had grasped for power but it was only worldly power not Spiritual power. David was the man after God's own heart but Absalom was a long way from his father's favored position.

Before David became king, the throne had been occupied by Saul. At the beginning of his reign he had been humble and usable in God's hands. A few years later, however, he began to grow impatient and take to himself a position that did not belong to him. His impatience grew into rank disobedience. He offered the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel. He saved the best from Amalek in disobedience of Samuel's command to utterly destroy it. The emptiness of his life led him from one evil deed to another. By the time of his death he was totally empty of all that was Godly or good.

Jesus spoke of a rich farmer, once, whose harvest was so great he needed larger barns. Here was a man who was the epitome of success by this world's standard. Even before this magnificent harvest, his barns were full. He had applied himself diligently to his work. He was a good farmer. He was a good provider. Although his barns were full, his life was empty. He could think only of providing greater resources for his own future enjoyment. His great harvest only caused him a problem — he had to build a greater storehouse. Never did he express his thankfulness for the sufficient grain that he had nor did he think of the others whom he could have shared his abundance with. His life was empty. When his soul was called away from this earth, all of his riches were left for others to enjoy or fight over. His life had been full of self-concern and greed but empty of compassion and sharing.

These men are only three of many spoken of in the Word of God. There have been many more through the ages. There are many empty lives in the world around us. Perhaps it is incorrect to speak of these lives as being empty. It might be more appropriate to speak of them as being filled with the wrong things. The wrong things have so filled their lives that there is no room left for what is really important. A man may be full of all the world has to offer but empty of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit a man cannot please God. If a man does not please God he has an empty life, no matter how much he may possess or how famous he may be. Drugs, drink and debauchery can never fill that void. Jesus Christ is the only one who can turn an empty life into a full life pleasing to God.

What is your life full of? The world or the Holy Spirit? Do you have an empty life?

A LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Mom and Dad,

Help! The terrible plight of someone starving has become my position. I'm searching for food to nourish and give me strength. That's why I'm coming to you.

I'm your child, a teenager. Confusion, questionings, discouragement, and the like plague me. No, I'm not suffering from physical starvation but I think even that would seem mild when compared to this horrifying, spiritual starvation.

I "joined the Church" when I was a young child. It seemed that was the thing to do because you had often said how you wanted your children to join the Church and become fine Christians. (One question - why didn't you do a little more demonstrating to set the pattern? It brings to mind a mother I once heard say to her children, "Do as I say, not as I do.") Anyway, I joined and lots of people shook my hand, giving me encouragement in my new walk of life. It was wonderful and I experienced a good feeling. Then, (and oh, it makes me tremble to think of it), most everyone LEFT! I was ALONE in this world. I might as well have been on a raging sea with a canoe facing the storm by myself - doomed to destruction. Oh, if only the Church would've realized a young babe who was just born into the fold needs food! I was weak - so weak. At least you, Mom and Dad, had family devotions sometimes, which made me think Christ had someplace in your life but it seemed I didn't see or hear much of Him except on Sundays. Also, I think you kind of dwelt at ease in Zion after all your children were Church members, but what good is it if we're members, if we starve and DIE spiritually?!

Everyone was so wrapped up in the affairs of this life so I figured that was the path to tread. The Lord was a stranger whom I felt uncomfortable even talking about. He was pushed into the background of my life, only to be called on in real emergencies. Oh, now don't let that worry you, Mom and Dad. I mean after all, I did dress like a Christian! And I looked forward to Sundays - that was my favorite day of the week! I saw all my friends then!

And Church was lots of fun. I'd sit with all the other young people and we'd see who could be most impressive and get the most attention. The whispering was almost continuous and passing notes was interesting - it helped take away the boredom of the service. But what nerve for the Sunday School teacher to call out names when he asked a question! Why, how was I supposed to know the answer - I hadn't been listening! The Bible wasn't written for my age anyway. It's too hard for me to understand, so I'll be a REAL Christian when I'm older and have a better understanding of the Bible.

School was so much different from Church though. I don't see why because I acted like the rest even if I didn't look like them. I mean I laughed along with the dirty jokes, I talked disrespectfully about my teachers. I made slanderous remarks about my parents, and I went along with their making fun of the poor girl in our class. Oh, why didn't the folks accept me?

I loved the young people get-togethers where there was alot of "fun" and talk about anything but spiritual things. (We'd save that for our parents to dwell-on, Sunday morning.) It was "tough" riding in the guys' neat cars and when they "burn-out" everyone can see that plain people know how to do it, too! Also the music featured the latest love songs (or divorce songs) and that went very well with the couple in the back seat. Oh, what fun times we had!

But now, Mom and Dad, here's the scary part. I heard a sermomm on true conversion and I didn't understand it! It was almost like another language. I don't ever remember experiencing such a new birth. How can God be a very dear and personal Friend, whom I walk and talk with everyday, when I hardly even KNOW Him?! Help! I'm SCARED! Something isn't right, but what? You knew how I was living. Why didn't you set me in the right path before? Often you asked me, "Well, what was the sermon about today?" Then you'd smile when I'd not at all regretfully say, "I don't know." YOU should have known I was missing something!

Mom and Dad - you're there aren't you?! You care don't you?! Then HELP! I'm getting desperate. It terrifies me to think of Christ coming, but I don't know what to do about it. I can't pray. I don't know how and God doesn't seem to be near. Now, for the first time in my life I feel LOST, REALLY LOST! I'm searching for the answers in my Bible and I'm enjoying reading it, but I want someone to explain things to me. It seems we hardly ever hear sermons on Christian living or Christian conduct or even on true conversion. My soul is hungry! It's longing for food!

Someone please help! I know something's wrong and I've never been more earnest. It horrifies me because too many of the young people are like I am and if we're the future Church and we're starving...

Mom and Dad, pray for me.

Your teenage daughter

P.S. I read something in Joel about "Be ye ashamed, because the harvest of the field is perished." Could I be part of the "wheat" that's ready to harvest? You won't let me perish will you, Mom and Dad? And it's not only me - there's a WHOLE WORLD needing help. Couldn't you reach out and help some others? I don't want others going through what I am. For my sake, tell the world of Him!

THE WRONG SIDE OF THE DOOR

Our dog, who has a personality all his own, has a knack for always being out of step. It seems that he is always on the wrong side of the door. Either he's out and wants in or he's in and wants out. When someone comes in, he is never quite ready to come in and must be let in later. When someone goes out, he often doesn't make up his mind to go out until the door is closed. Or, he must eat or drink first before he is ready to go, yet he doesn't want to miss anything.

Some people are just like our dog; always on the wrong side of the door. They are always out of step, yet they don't want to miss anything. When the opportunity comes to help someone, they are busy doing something for themselves. They want to see souls brought to the Lord, as long as someone else does the work. They whine when they miss a blessing, but they want it without the responsibility of doing the Lord's will. They are never where God wants them to be when He wants them to be there. Then they wonder why He always uses (and blesses) someone else.

God wants things done when He says to do them. If you want Him to use you, you must be available when the call comes. You must listen to, and obey, the Holy Spirit so you know when to move and when to stay put. You may have to miss something somewhere else in order to take care of the Lord's work at home. But if you stayed home because God wanted you there, there is where your blessing was. If you miss out on what the Lord wants you to do, whether at home or away, then you've missed everything.

A Christian's life is a giving life, not just a receiving one. What we receive from the Lord, we must share with others, not keep it to ourselves. In order to share in a way which will please God, we must move when He says move. Acts 8:26-40 tells us how Philip obeyed the Lord in going to the eunuch. Philip told him about Jesus; the eunuch believed and was baptized. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing, but what would have happened if Philip hadn't minded the Lord?

Philip obeyed the Lord and was in the right place at the right time. He made it his business to be on the right side of the door. So also did Paul, who knew it was important to be where he should be. Acts 16:6-7 tells of places where Paul would have preached, but he was forbidden to do so by the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:9-10 tells of a call to preach in Macedonia and Paul immediately prepared to go. He did as the Lord directed. The Lord blessed Paul's work.

If you submit your will to the Lord and don't try to operate independently, He can use you. You'll be where He wants you to be instead of always on the wrong side of the door. When the Spirit speaks, move, as Peter did after he saw the vision. (Acts 10:19-20). The Spirit told him to go to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, where

he preached the Word and many were baptized. This was a difficult decision for Peter, a Jew, but he obeyed the Spirit. You must obey the Spirit, whether He says to go or to stay where you are.

"...Be instant in season, out of season..." II Tim. 4:2. Be on time; be where you should be. Be alert to the need, so when God calls you, you will be ready. Don't be so busy with your personal matters that you're never quite ready to accept the call when it comes. Matt. 22:1-14 tells a sad story of those called to a feast, but they refused to come. They were too busy with their own affairs to heed the call, so others were chosen to receive the blessing instead.

God's final blessing to us is eternal life, which begins when we accept Christ as our Savior and Lord. We have no life without Christ. After accepting Him, we need to work for Him and to share the Gospel with others. They, too, need Jesus. We must share the good news of salvation; it's too good to keep to ourselves. You are on the right side of the door when you accept Christ and continue in His will. Whenever God calls you, whatever the task, obey Him. If you don't, you may find yourself on the wrong side of the door, not only now, but forever!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE GREEK LANGUAGE

The Greek language, in which the New Testament was written, is rich in the variety of its words used in connection with the use of water. The following list will illustrate:

1. "Lano"—"to wash the body", John 13:10, Acts 9:37.
2. "Plumo"—"to wash, properly as clothes by plunging them into water," Rev. 7:14, Ex. 18:10, Num. 8:7, Lev. 11:25.
3. "Nipto"—"to wash". It is spoken of some part of the body, as the hands, Matt. 15:2, Mark 7:3; the feet, John 13:5-6; the face, Matt. 6:17; the eyes, John 6:7.
4. "Ekcheo"—"to pour out, as the Holy Ghost," Acts 2:17-18, 33.
5. "Brecho"—"to wet; to make wet," Luke 7:38-44.
6. "Rantizo"—"to sprinkle," Heb. 9:13, 19, 21.
7. "Baptizo"—"to dip, plunge, immerse, repeatedly in water," Matt. 28:19, II Kings 5:14.
8. "Bapto"—"to dip, plunge, immerse, once," John 13:26.

Christ selected from this list the word that would convey His meaning when He gave the commission, Matt. 28:19. He selected "baptizo". Had He intended anything else than a repeated dipping, He would have chosen another word.

Selected from Bible Helps by Brother W. E. Bashor

YOUR EYES SHALL SEE THE KING

Continued from September 1, 1977 Issue

What a glorious thought that our "eyes shall see the King." " We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump..." I Cor. 15:51-52. The teaching here is clear. The Lord's people who are living at the time of the Second Coming will not see death, but will be translated like Enoch and Elijah. The change from the terrestrial to the celestial will take place in a split second, like the transfiguration of Jesus. Signs, given in prophecy of the prevailing conditions of the last days, are seen in the world today.

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced him:..." Rev. 1:7. "They also which pierced him" is a special reference to the Jews, who at that time will recognize that Jesus of Nazareth, whom their ancestors crucified, is the Very Truth, the Messiah. The eyes of all living will truly "see the King" for Jesus will establish His throne at Jerusalem, ruling all nations in righteousness and peace for a thousand years.

While Zech. 14:4 tells us, "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, many references in the Bible speak of Christ being seen while in the act of descending. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24:27-30.

At the final resurrection, all who have not shared in the Millennial Reign of Christ, at the end of the thousand years, must stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment. "Every eye shall see the King" for finally all men must look into the face of Jesus - some will see Him as Justifier - the rest will see Him as Judge.

Foretelling the coming of Jesus, as Saviour, Isaiah declared, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." Isa. 53:2b. Here is a divine paradox. It is only understood at conversion, when eyes which hitherto saw no beauty in Jesus, are suddenly opened, beholding Him for the first time as the "Altogether lovely," seen by Solomon.

Your eyes and my eyes shall surely see the King. May God grant us spiritual vision to see Him in His beauty, now and hereafter.

Brother Ray S. Shank



Fate is not the ruler, but the servant of Providence. —Bulwer

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

AN ANGEL BRINGS A MESSAGE

JUDGES 13

Have you ever seen an angel? Angels are messengers of God and are mentioned in the Bible many times. They often appear as men and sometimes do miraculous things. An angel came to the wife of a man named Manoah. This woman was later to become the mother of Samson, the strongest man that ever lived. Manoah and his wife had no children. I suppose Manoah's wife wanted a child of her own more than anything else in the world. The Bible says that the angel of the Lord appeared to her and told her that she would have a son. This son was to be a special man of God and he would deliver Israel from the Philistines, who had ruled over Israel for forty years. The wife of Manoah told her husband about the angel and said, "A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible:... he said that I would bear a son and I should not drink wine or strong drink and neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God as long as he lives."

Manoah prayed to God and asked him to send the angel to them again and teach them what they should do unto this child that would be born. The angel came again to Manoah's wife and she ran and told her husband. He came to meet the angel of God and said, "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?" The angel said, "I am." Manoah asked the angel how they should take care of this child. The angel said of Manoah's wife, "All that I have commanded her; let her observe."

Manoah didn't know this man was an angel of God and asked him to wait till he had prepared a meal for him. The angel replied, "I will not eat of your bread, but if you will offer a burnt offering, offer it unto the Lord." So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering and offered it upon a rock unto the Lord. While the offering was burning, the flame went up toward heaven and the angel just walked unto the flame and disappeared.

Manoah and his wife looked on and fell on their faces to the ground. Manoah said, "We shall surely die because we have seen God." But his wife said unto him, "If the Lord were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would he have told us such things as these."

The miracle they saw proved to them that the message which the angel brought them was from God. You may have seen an angel and didn't know it. In the book of Hebrews we read, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Brother Rudy Cover

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

1:7. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1:29. For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.

2:5. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

3:7. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

8:13. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogancy and the evil way, and the froward mouth do I hate.

9:10. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

10:27. The fear of the Lord longeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

14:26. In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

14:27. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

15:16. Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

15:33. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

16:6. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

19:23. The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

23:4. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour and life.

23:17. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long.

24:21. My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change.

James D. Cover



Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated. —Anonymous

A FRUITFUL OLD AGE

"They shall still bring forth fruit in old age." Psalms 92:14

We cannot keep from growing old, but by the grace of God we should avoid the pitfalls that make some elderly folk peevish and unfruitful. When Longfellow was quite aged, an ardent admirer asked how he was able to remain so vigorous and write so beautifully. Pointing to an apple tree, the poet replied, "That tree has been there a long time, but I never saw prettier flowers on it than those it has right now. Its branches display a little new wood each year, and I suppose that is what accounts for the lovely blossoms. Like the apple tree, I still grow new wood each year!" We cannot stop the flight of time, but we can keep growing in grace so that we may continue to bear spiritual fruit.

The following prayer for the elderly is worth repeating: "Lord, Thou knowest I am growing older. Keep me from the idea that I must express myself on every subject. Release me from the craving to meddle in everyone's affairs. Keep my tongue from the recital of endless details of the past which do not interest others. Seal my lips when I am inclined to talk about my aches and pains.

They are increasing with the years, and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful, but not interfering; helpful, but not bossy. With the wisdom and experience I've gained, it does seem a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends left at the end. So help me to pray more, talk less. And beyond all this, let me continue to flourish spiritually and bring forth fruit to Thy glory even in old age. Amen!"

"To stay youthful, keep useful!"

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake



Example is more forcible than precept. - People look at my six days in the week to see what I mean on the seventh. —Cecil

When will talkers refrain from evil speaking? - When listeners refrain from evil hearing. —Hare

GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

If we choose to serve and be obedient to God, we can become His chosen people. Back in the time of the old dispensation, the Jews were the chosen people of God. Through disobedience to God, they lost their favor with Him.

Today, there are many sinful things, the Lord does not want in our lives. God hates a proud look - it goes before destruction. If we follow the foolish, sinful fashions of the world, we are not in favor with God. We are to be a separate people, clothed in modest apparel. Many fail to follow the good example set by their faithful foreparents as commanded by the Lord.

There was a time when a professing Christian's word was his bond. Today there is much untruthfulness and dishonesty. If we become untrue to our fellowman, we are not living a faithful Christian life. When we promised to renounce Satan with all his sinful ways, much was implied. It is a matter of importance that we have turned from darkness to the marvelous light of the Gospel. We are taught long hair is a glory to a woman and a shame to a man. The man is to be the head of woman. The human family is turning further and further away from His Word.

If we choose to serve and be obedient to God, we can become His chosen people. Choose this day to serve the Lord to be among God's chosen people, who have turned from darkness to the marvelous light of the Gospel. It is necessary to be obedient to all the teachings of the New Testament, the saving Gospel. We must choose the Lord to be His chosen people. Through accepting the saving Gospel of Christ we can become heirs with Him and be bright and shining lights in this dark and sinful world.

Have we lost favor with God or are we among His chosen people? The Apostle Paul looked forward to the great Crown of life, joy, peace and happiness. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the trees of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

Brother J. F. Marks
R. 3, York, Pennsylvania



Faith is the eye that sees Him, the hand that clings to Him, the receiving power that appropriates Him. —Woodbridge

OBITUARIES

EMMA SOWERS

Emma M. Sowers was born December 23, 1888, at Welsh Run, Pennsylvania. She died at her home, 829 Maple St., Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, on May 3 after being in ill health for several years. She was a daughter of the late George and Harriet Fosten.

Emma is survived by her husband, Conda and three children, Mrs. Ruth Kennedy of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania; Eugene Sowers of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Bro. Charles Sowers of Smithsburg, Maryland. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, four sisters and three brothers.

She was a faithful member of the Dunkard Brethren Church until her death.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 5, in the Waynesboro Dunkard Brethren Church. Burial followed in Prices Church Cemetery.

E. ERNEST BUCKINGHAM

Elmer Ernest Buckingham was born August 28, 1902, near North Manchester, Indiana, the oldest son of the late John and Ida Buckingham. He passed away March 21, 1977 near Lakeland, Florida. The years of his pilgrimage upon earth being 74 years, 6 months and 21 days.

On December 21, 1941 he was united in marriage to S. Ruth (Fisher) Grey. To this union were born two sons, Allen and Wayne. He also leaves to mourn his passing one step-daughter, Mrs. Deloris Flory of Bernville, Pennsylvania; two brothers, Fred and George of Michigan; three sisters, Mary Flora and Hazel Johnson of Florida and Eve Bassham of Michigan, besides many friends and neighbors.

Ernest was a farmer and laborer and worked hard all his life. He was working when the fatal heart attack came and took his life. Since 1966, he had made his home at Hart, Michigan.

He was a member of the Church of the Brethren many years. In 1954 he united with the Dunkard Brethren Church, to which fellowship he remained faithful until death.

Funeral services were conducted from the Tate-Weaver Funeral Home at Pentwater, Michigan by Elder William Carpenter. Text used: John 19:22.

The body was laid to rest near his companion in the Brookside Cemetery near Scottville, Michigan to await the resurrection.

The Family

QUESTIONS FOR PEDOBAPTISTS TO THINK UPON

1. Where is the scripture in which God, Christ, lawgiver, prophets, or Apostles authorized anyone to sprinkle pure water on any person for any purpose?
2. Where is the scripture that any inspired man ever sprinkled pure water on any person?
3. Where does the New Testament say that baptism was performed by the sprinkling of water?
4. Where is the verse or chapter in the New Testament authorizing one in any degree to baptize by sprinkling?
5. Where in the Bible does the word "baptize" mean "to sprinkle"?
6. From what Greek author, ancient or modern, can you get a quotation in which the word "baptizo (baptize)" means "to sprinkle"?
7. Why have none of the great reformers said that sprinkling was the apostolic mode of baptism?
8. What Church more than two centuries old did not at some time baptize by immersion?
9. What Church today will not accept into its fold persons who have been immersed?
10. What likeness is there in sprinkling to a burial? Rom. 6:4, a planting? Rom. 6:5, a birth? John 3:5.

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Walnut Grove Congregation will hold Revival Meetings September 23 through October 2, 1977. The Lord willing, these efforts will close with our annual Lovefeast on October 2, with all day services. Elder Harley Flory, from Defiance, Ohio, will be our evangelist. Your support in prayers and attendance will be appreciated.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Revival Meetings at West Fulton will begin October 2 and continue for two weeks. Bro. Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. Also a Harvest Meeting in the afternoon of October 16.

You are welcome to come at any time to worship with us. May we all pray that souls may be saved.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We, of the Englewood Congregation, enjoyed another two weeks meeting with Bro. Dean St. John as the evangelist. Even though the weather was hot, it didn't hinder the Word from going forth with the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

Although there were no additions to the Church, we should all have been strengthened and have a greater desire to live closer to our Lord in the days ahead and be ready to meet Him in peace when He comes for His own.

We pray a blessing upon Bro. and Sis. St. John as they go into other fields of labor.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

REMINDER

When planning to move, please inform the Editor of your change of address, as soon as possible. If he does not receive this information in time it will mean you will miss one or more issues of the Bible Monitor and the Post Office will collect a 25¢ charge from the Bible Monitor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 2 — The Woman and the Man Child. Rev. 12:1-17.

Oct. 9 — The First and Second Beast. Rev. 13:1-18.

Oct. 16 — "They that Keep the Commandments of God." Rev. 14:1-20.

Oct. 23 — Victory Over the Beast. Rev. 15:1-8.

Oct. 30 — The Seven Angels and Seven Plagues. Rev. 16:1-21.

QUESTIONS:

In Rev. 12, We must understand who the characters or beings are that are mentioned. Without this, the chapter is meaningless.

(1) Who is the woman? Vs. 1, 17.

(2) Who is the man child? Vs. 5.

(3) Who is the dragon? Vs. 3, 9.

(4) Who are the stars of heaven? Vs. 4, 9.

Rev. 13-How would it be possible to buy or sell under the power of the beast? V. 17. What will happen to those who receive the mark of the beast? Rev. 14:9, 10, 11.

Rev. 14-Who were the one hundred and forty-four thousand? V. 4; Rev. 7:4-8.

Rev. 15-Who were they that are victorious? Vs. 2, 3.

Rev. 16-Who were the seven plagues poured out upon? Rev. 16:2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR OCTOBER, 1977

CONSUMED AND CONVERSION

Memory Verse: Mal. 3:6

For I am the Lord, I change not;
therefore ye sons of Jacob are
not consumed.

Sat. 1-Dan. 7:1-28

Memory Verse: Gal. 5:15

But if ye bite and devour one
another, take heed that ye be not
consumed one of another.

Sun. 2-Dan. 11:1-20

Mon. 3-Dan. 11:21-45

Tues. 4-Hos. 11:1-12

Wed. 5-Zeph. 1:1-18

Thur. 6-Zec. 5:1-11

Fri. 7-Zec. 14:1-21

Sat. 8-Mal. 3:1-18

Memory Verse: II Thess. 2:8

And then shall that Wicked be re-
vealed, whom the Lord shall
consume with the spirit of his
mouth, and shall destroy with the
brightness of his coming:

Sun. 9-Luke 9:43-62

Mon. 10-Gal. 5:1-26

Tues. 11-II Thess. 2:1-17

Wed. 12-Heb. 12:1-29

Thur. 13-James 4:1-17

Fri. 14-Psa. 19:1-14

Sat. 15-Psa. 51:1-19

Memory Verse: Psa. 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect,
converting the soul: the testi-
mony of the Lord is sure, making
wise the simple.

Sun. 16-Isa. 1:1-31

Mon. 17-Isa. 6:1-13

Tues. 18-Isa. 60:1-22

Wed. 19-Matt. 13:1-30

Thur. 20-Matt. 13:31-38

Fri. 21-Matt. 18:1-20

Sat. 22-Matt. 18:21-35

Memory Verse: Matt. 18:3

And said, Verily I say unto you,
Except ye be converted, and
become as little children, ye shall
not enter into the kingdom of
heaven.

Sun. 23-Mark 4:1-20

Mon. 24-Mark 4:21-41

Tues. 25-Luke 22:1-34

Wed. 26-Luke 22:35-71

Thur. 27-John 12:1-30

Fri. 28-John 12:31-50

Sat. 29-Acts 3:1-26

Memory Verse: Acts 3:19

Repent ye therefore, and be con-
verted, that your sins may be
blotted out, when the times of
refreshing shall come from the
presence of the Lord:

Sun. 30-Acts 28:1-31

Mon. 31-James 5:1-20

Memory Verse: James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because
ye ask amiss, that ye may con-
sume it upon your lusts.

James 5:20

Let him know, that he which
converteth the sinner from the
error of his way, shall save a soul
from death, and shall hide a
multitude of sins.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR COMING KING

The time is drawing nigh
For the coming of the King;
Let our lamps be trimmed and burning
And the joyful tidings ring.
Soon the sounding of the trumpet
Will be heard in every land;
And the Saints in garments white.
Will be gleaned from every strand.
Are you ready, Brother, Sister?
Have you died to all but Him?
Are you looking up to see
The coming of the King?
He is coming in His glory,
With the heavenly angel band,
May celestial strains of music
Waft us to the Better Land!
Let us be as children watching,
Waiting for the Heavenly Heir,
For with Him we will share the Kingdom
If we meet Him in the air.

— Anonymous

GRACE AND MERCY

Often we hear of the Grace and Mercy shown to men by the God of Heaven. Do we ever stop to consider the meaning of these words? Do they mean anything to us as the children of God? These two words are on one hand very common while on the other hand they express such lofty sentiments that we can scarcely comprehend their meaning. When speaking of God's Grace and Mercy, these words are far beyond our human understanding.

When considering the Grace and Mercy of God, it is impossible to tell where Grace ends and Mercy begins or where Mercy ends and Grace begins. They are intertwined so completely with each other. Both are based upon the infinite love of God. The best illustration of God's Grace and Mercy is found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Grace is God's many gifts to mankind which are completely undeserved. Mankind certainly deserves nothing from the Hand of God, yet they enjoy everything, often in unthankfulness. Without the Grace of God, life itself could not exist. The greatest of Grace's gifts are the Spiritual gifts given us. Without the gift of His Son there could be no hope for the salvation of men's souls. Man can do nothing that would merit the favor of God or an entrance into Heaven. John says, "God so loved." He is telling us that though mankind was undeserving, yet God's love was so great and unworldly that He was willing to reach down and provide for man's greatest need. John says, "He gave." His Grace is a giving Grace.

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Here it is His greatest gift - His Son. This marked the extreme end to which God was willing to go for man's sake.

The record of God's Grace is that He loved and He gave. The record, repeated many times in the Bible, of man's activities is one of blemish, fault and sin. Isaiah says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." The Apostle Paul says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." What a poor record for mankind but God's Grace has provided a far better record. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:11-12.

The only thing that equals the Grace of God is the Mercy of God. Grace is defined as the undeserved favor of God toward mankind. Man got what he did not deserve. Grace's companion Mercy is defined as undeserved restraint toward man's sins by God. Men do not receive the immediate and dramatic judgment that their sins deserve. Mercy keeps men from suffering the penalty that they so decidedly deserve, so they might enjoy the blessings that they do not deserve which Grace has provided for them.

John 3:16 states that those who believe in God's only begotten Son have received mercy that they "should not perish." This is the work of Mercy. The condition of man would require that he must perish - that he must suffer eternal separation from God. But God is merciful. It is His desire for man to enjoy everlasting life rather than suffer a deserved damnation.

One of the powers possessed by the President of the United States is the power of pardon. He can sign a paper that will free a man from the penalty of his crimes - no matter how trivial or great they may be. But one of the legal issues that surrounds the granting of that pardon is the necessity of the one receiving it to accept it. If the recipient will not accept this merciful act of the President, the pardon will be of no force and that man must face the consequences of his crime. When that man accepts that pardon he is admitting that he is guilty. As unlikely as it may seem, there once was a pardoned man who refused the President's pardon. He had to pay the price demanded by his crime - his life. The mercy of the President was of no avail.

God has been Gracious and Merciful to each one in this world yet His Grace and Mercy are made of no avail by so many. All have received His display of Grace in natural and Spiritual affairs, yet few have been willing to acknowledge their guilt and repent of their sins. His Mercy has been of no avail to them so they will not be able to enjoy the blessings of His Grace in the salvation of their souls. What a terrible waste.

Have you accepted these undeserved legacies from God? Or have you wasted that which God has paid so dearly for?

A LETTER TO PARENTS

Part 2

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just had to write to let you know the change in my life. I can tell that after my last letter you prayed and, oh, the joy is undescribable! God answers prayer and no one can ever make me doubt that! Christ came into my life - He's REAL and He's living in me! The Bible is a precious book filled with food to satisfy a yearning heart. Of course, I don't understand everything, but, I'm young. I'll keep believing, trusting, searching and studying His Word and maybe someday much more will be clear to me.

I can't believe how precious a Friend, Jesus is, Mom and Dad! He's so wonderful. He's there whenever I need Him! Even in the darkest hours of the night or the loneliest parts of life's walk, He's always there waiting to be called on. He's such a comfort. He brings such peace into my heart. I'm no longer the confused, troubled girl you heard from in the last letter. I'm happy and sure of God and His Word.

I regret so much of my past life but I prayed for forgiveness. People will be able to see I'm different. I'm sure my friends at school can see the change and I want to let them know there really is something GREAT in serving the Lord. I guess I've made some scars that can never be erased and it makes a black mark for the plain people. Only God knows how sorry I am.

I love going to Church, Mom and Dad! It's like a filling station. With an open heart and mind I can get filled with His goodness. Sunday School helps me to learn more about Him. Even singing the hymns is a real inspiration. The words hold so much meaning now.

My goals and desires have completely changed. Many of the things which were once fun give me no pleasure at all anymore.

There's still a sad part though. A pain goes through me when I still see young people hanging on to some of their old ways after they're in the Church. It's sad enough growing up never making a profession but what really hurts is to have members who bring shame to the Church. I'm pointing no fingers because if I do, three will be pointing back at me. I have compassion for them and I just hope and pray they do purify their ways so that the Church might be without spot or blemish.

Thank you for helping me, Mom and Dad! I hope other young people have parents who help when they really need them.

And you know Mom and Dad, I'm so happy about my new life I want to share it with others! How can I keep it quiet?!

Bye-bye. I love you!

Your "new" daughter

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

The Christian today finds himself in a world of words. From the first day of life a constant flow of words from the air waves fall on the ears of most children and their parents. They come from the halls of learning; from full-stacked libraries; from newspapers and magazines; from bookstores and news-stands, from advertisers and salesmen, from statesmen and politicians. Great thrusts of words, good, bad and indifferent, assail and challenge eye and ear in ever-widening cascades and torrents of more and more words.

Should the Christian retire from it all and cease to give forth verbal testimony of his faith? It is easy to fall into a habit of many words about everything but the Lord. It is still easier to spend precious moments and even hours with reading, hearing and viewing worldly entertainment in armchair comfort, with no thought of the fear of the Lord. In the midst of twentieth century comforts and ease, is there indeed and danger of our losing our fear of the Lord? Should not an old man, who has had his day, accept the apparently inevitable, find his corner of seclusion and keep his thoughts to himself?

Modern retirement has brought many blessings of the Lord and much time for meditation. Free pleasure trips on Sunday, free fishing licenses, free tickets to spectacular events, and many more, seek to remind the aged, "You've earned your retirement, now take it. Get what pleasure you can." But well-known names in funeral notices and on new grave markers enter into the meditative process, stirring memories of many, who served their God until the end.

Almost every day I look into the clear eyes of innocent children, their little minds expanding in knowledge of what should be done in the fear of the Lord. I then know that a Christian can never retire from serving his or her Lord in word and deed. Thank God for this and every opportunity to witness for Him — I was once that clear-eyed youngster. Thank God for faithful parents who ever held the "Fear of the Lord" before their children. I, like all Christian children, soon became conscious of the sinful words and deeds in the world in which I lived.

The fear of the Lord gives true prospective to the understanding. True values for comparison are seen as Eternal truth. Early decisions in the fear of the Lord tend to good habits and a strong character. An early confession of Christ saves "from a thousand

snares" as some wise poet wrote possibly a hundred years ago.

It is folly to deny that fear has a rightful place in our every day life. The small child should fear, and so should old age, even in such a small matter as crossing a street. Natural fears overshadowed by the fear of the Lord should make for carefulness in this modern age.

Without the Bible, the fear of the Lord would soon degenerate into the fear of the unknown. Many false teachers are ready to lead the young mind from there. The fear of the Lord prepares the mind and heart for the basic, Eternal Truth of God's Word.

Man's wisdom seeks from the result to learn the cause. But in the fear of the Lord we have the first and last cause for eternal results. Man starts on the bottom to learn wisdom. But eternal wisdom comes down as a gift from "...the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

The written Word of God is precious to Him and has great power for us. Jesus said "It is written" to Satan three times. Satan had to leave, he could not stand before the written Word of God. God's Holy Spirit ever leads to God's written Word.

Heart appreciation for God's written Word starts here. It should stir the vocal cords to action. Tongue and lips should form words of joy and gladness. A happy atmosphere of glorious praise should envelop the Christian home. Meals received in joy and gladness tend to good digestion. The fear of the Lord does much for sound refreshing sleep. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." "Ask and receive," says Jesus, "that your joy may be full." God's greatest revelation to man is in His glorious Son. If He is indeed our Saviour and Lord, His love will fill our hearts with peace and joy. His service will be our blessed employment.

Our forefathers and mothers found much to sing about. Heavy and monotonous toil was lightened by the "sweet songs of Zion." These expressed a wide range of not only human feeling and experience, but better still of faith, hope, and love. The name of Jesus with many of His Biblical, expressive titles lifted their minds and hearts to Heaven, causing them to look upward in fond anticipation of His return. New poetry and new harmonies often struggled within to later find their way into books of Christian song.

The fear of the Lord is still the beginning of knowledge and of wisdom. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." He has brought us to this day and age to shine and to testify for Him.

We should seek His marvelous hand indeed in all of nature about us. But let us not fail to follow through in our Bible reading to the closing scenes of Revelation. The fear of the Lord is extolled in the songs of the Heavenly hosts. Rev. 15:3-4, "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

Your brother in the fear of the Lord,
James D. Cover

MY REDEEMER LIVETH

The Cross is empty, the Tomb is vacant, the Throne is occupied. Attempts have been made by infidels and others to disprove the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many agree that He died then His disciples stole His body, leaving an empty tomb. It is much better to believe the Divine Record.

Was it to be, the last view this world had of Jesus should be on a cross, the spit of men upon His face and a crown of thorns upon His head, His body marred and scarred by nails and a spear and a crying in the anguish of His soul, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" No! That was not the last of Him. As we listen, we hear another cry, "It is finished." That cry spelled victory. When His parents lost sight of Him on the return from Jerusalem, at the age of twelve, their reprimand brought the answer, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49. Now He had finished the work on earth which God had given Him to do.

Paul paints a very dark picture in I Cor. 15. If Christ did not rise then - "Your faith is vain," "We are false witnesses," "Ye are yet in your sins," "Those fallen asleep in Christ are perished," "We are of all men most miserable." But with a grand trust of confidence, Paul exclaims, "But now is Christ risen from the dead." I Cor. 15:20. Further, he enumerates some of the witnesses and then exclaims, "And last of all he was seen of me also." I Cor. 15:8. Luke wrote, "To whom he also shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs." Acts 1:3. Thank God, Calvary was not the end.

The resurrection is vital to the Christian faith. There is no salvation without it. "Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25. The Book of Hebrews records some of the results of the resurrection. "...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of

the Majesty on high." Heb. 1:3. Under the old economy, the priests never sat down. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." Heb. 10:12. Some mocked then, as they do today, but the Judge, the Resurrected, will preside and condemn. How solemn to think that the present Saviour will be the future Judge.

Comforting is the thought of Paul to the Hebrews, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. Saved to the "uttermost", right to the end. "...having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." John 13:1.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." Heb. 4:14. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16. Mercy for our failure and grace for our need. What promises!

We have a risen Man in glory, One who understands our hearts, our weaknesses, One who can enter into every circumstance of life.

The Cross is empty, the Tomb is vacant, the Throne of God is occupied. "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart."

Brother Ray S. Shank

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of Aug. 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management, and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 1, 1977.

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2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.

3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,233.

THINGS YOU CAN'T DO

"With God, all things are possible," yet there are some things you can't do. You may try to bypass God's pattern for success, but it won't work. If you do things in the proper order, you will have peace, but doing things backwards only leads to failure and frustration. Doing things with God and according to His will brings success.

You can't please God, no matter how hard you try, unless you have Jesus in your heart. Jesus is the Redeemer, the only one who can save you. You aren't acceptable to God without first being converted; you cannot be saved in your sins. "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3b. "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6b. "Without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5b. You can't carry out God's will for your life without Jesus.

You can't show someone the way to Jesus, unless you've been there yourself. You can't tell someone about His love until you show what His love has done for you. You can't witness effectively to someone about Jesus when you don't take time to be a friend first. You must be accepted as a friend (one who truly cares about another) before anyone will listen to anything you say about your Saviour.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. You can't seek things first, such as possessions, honor, financial success, then expect His righteousness to be added. You must keep your life in God's order, which means God is first. Then you can expect the blessings to follow. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring to pass." Psa. 37:4-5.

You can't serve two masters; God expects undivided service. Everything you have, everything you are or ever will be belongs to God. You can't have complete joy in your heart as long as you cling to your own desires and refuse to let Jesus be the Lord of your life. "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Luke 16:13. As long as you try to serve God and let your own will interfere, you are torn between the two. Instead of peace and joy, you then have only unhappiness.

You can't give to the Lord's work in a skimpy, selfish way, then expect to be bountifully blessed. When you say, "Lord, see how much I gave?" He will say, "See how much you have left, that you've kept for yourself?" "Give, and it shall be given unto you;

good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall man give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. (See also II Cor. 9:6-7). Your own giving determines what you get.

You can't help settle the disputes of others if you are in the habit of stirring up trouble yourself. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient." II Tim. 2:24. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matt. 5:9. Some people do not know how to get along, and if you are to help them, you must be peaceful, gentle, and patient. These qualities should be within every child of God.

You can't sow to sin and reap righteousness. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. If you sow to sin, your harvest will be eternal damnation. If you sow to the Spirit, your harvest will be eternal life. The results of your sowing may not show up immediately, but you can be sure you will reap what you sow both now and in eternity. If you want to reap the things of the Lord, sow spiritual things.

You can't be too busy to pray and witness for the Lord, if you expect to help sinners find salvation. Jesus called us to a life of active service, and that's what it takes to help those who are unsaved. Haphazard, half-hearted service is of little value. "Go, teach, baptize, and teach some more," the Great Commission says. This means an active life. You may not be able to carry out all of this, but you can tell your neighbors and friends about Jesus.

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:8-9. You can get too much religion, but you can't get too much true Christianity. Many people in this world are religious, but their relationship to the Lord is what counts. Mere forms and rituals mean nothing. God expects (and deserves) much more than just lip service.

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." This love comes from God, and you can't get too much of it in your heart. Because of Jesus and His love for you, you can serve God acceptably. This is something you can do; do it now!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



As the flower is before the fruit, so is faith before good works.
—Whately

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

SAMSON'S RIDDLE

JUDGES 14

A riddle is a puzzling question that is difficult to answer. I suppose most children that go to school know what a riddle is. When I went to school someone would come up with a riddle like, "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall" or "What is white and black and read all over?" There are lots of riddles and some are really hard to figure out.

Samson wanted to marry a daughter of a Philistine. Samson's parents were Israelites and objected to their son wanting to marry one who wasn't one of their own people. But Samson was determined and said unto his father, "Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well." Samson was a miracle child of the Lord and God's purpose was for Samson to overcome the Philistines who were over Israel. Samson's parents didn't know that this was of the Lord, but the Lord wanted Samson to have a reason to fight the Philistines.

Finally Samson persuaded his parents to go with him to make arrangements for the wedding. On the way to Timnath, where the bride-to-be lived, a young lion came out of a vineyard and roared at Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson. He just grabbed that lion and tore him apart as he would a kid. He didn't tell his parents about it. After the wedding arrangements were made, possibly about a year, the time for the wedding came. Samson and his father and mother again went to Timnath. On the way he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. There was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion. Samson took some of the honey and ate it and gave some to his parents, but he didn't tell them where he got it.

At the wedding, Samson made a feast, as the custom for the bridegroom was, and the Philistines brought thirty young men to be companions over the feast. It probably lasted several days, at least seven. As part of the entertainment over the wedding occasion, Samson said to the men, "I've got a riddle for you. If you can tell what it is within seven days I will give you thirty sheets and thirty changes of garments. (We would say thirty complete sets of clothes - suits, shirts, shoes, and so forth.) If you cannot tell the riddle then you shall give me the same." Seven days is quite a while to work out a riddle so they were more than willing.

Samson said, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." Three days went by and they couldn't find the answer. Of course, we know Samson was telling

about the lion he killed and the honey he found in the carcass. The seventh day came and they still couldn't tell, so they said to Samson's wife, "You must entice Samson and tell us the riddle or we will burn you and your father's house with fire."

So Samson's wife wept and pleaded with Samson to tell her the riddle but he said, "I have not told my father or mother, why would I tell you?" But as she continued to weep and beg, he finally told her and she, of course, told the Philistine men.

The men of the city said to him on the seventh day, "What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion?"

This angered Samson because he knew they had tricked him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he went to the city of Askalon and killed thirty Philistines and took their clothes and gave them unto those who told the answer to his riddle. Samson was so angry that he went back to his father's house without his wife. Samson's wife was given to another man.

This was only the start of Samson's battle against the Philistines. God's Spirit was so strong within him that his natural strength was unlimited. We can have God's Spirit in our lives today, if we choose to be men and women of God. We can overcome sin as Samson overcame the Philistines.

Brother Rudy Cover

QUESTIONS FOR SINGLE IMMERSIONIST TO THINK UPON

1. Why did the inspired writers discriminate in favor of using "baptizo" in preference to "bapto" in writing of Christian Baptism?
2. How can a person be immersed into three separate beings, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, by a single act?
3. How can one baptize as Christ commanded in Matt. 18:19 by a single act?
4. Can you find a sentence in English, Greek or Latin literature parallel to the commission that you can perform by one act?
5. By whose authority do you baptize? If by Christ's where does He state this authority and how do you obey it? (Read Matt. 28:19.)
6. Christ calls His suffering in the Garden a baptism. Matt. 20:22; Mark 10:38. In this baptism how many times did he bow? Read Matt. 26:39-44; Mark 14:35-41; Luke 22:41.
7. Can you find any historical reference to single immersion before it was instituted by Eunomius in the 4th century?
8. Can you point to any scripture that teaches one action as plainly as the commission (Matt. 28:19) teaches three?

QUESTIONS FOR BACKWARD IMMERSIONIST TO THINK UPON

1. Where in the Bible is there a command to fall backward in doing any command, or in any act of worship?
2. Where in the Bible is there an example of any man of God falling upon his back in obedience to any command, or in any act of worship?
3. Since the passing through the Red Sea is a figure of Christian baptism, (I Cor. 10:2) and the children of Israel were commanded to "Go forward," where is the authority for backward immersion?
4. Since Christian baptism is a planting, "in the likeness of his death," (Rom. 6:3-5) where is the authority for falling backward in baptism?
5. Baptism is for the remission of sins. "Without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22. "The blood of Jesus Christ (shed in His death) cleanseth us from sin." I John 1:7. In what act of baptism do you come in contact with that blood?
6. Where is baptism said to be like a burial?
7. Can you find any historical mention of backward immersion before the year A.D. 1522?
8. What passage of Scripture caused you to think the action should be backward?
9. Christ calls His suffering in the Garden a baptism. Was His action backward or forward? Read Matt. 26:39-44; Mark 14:35-41; Luke 22:41.

Selected from Bible Helps
Brother W. E. Bashor

THERE ARE NOT TWO WAYS TO HEAVEN

Some folks think they can just do part of what God or Jesus or the Apostles say and they should be satisfied. When Cain brought a dead sacrifice God was not pleased. When God told Noah to build the ark, He said, "See thou make it according to the pattern." When He told Moses to build the tabernacle, He said, "See thou make it according to the pattern." When He told Solomon to build the Temple, He said, "See thou make it according to the pattern." Jesus said before He left this world, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

So by the Word of God we need to do all things if we will be pleasing to God. Jesus did all things that God, His Father, told Him, even to the death on the cross. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Sister Dora Spurgeon

MARRIAGES

MEYERS-MYERS

Sister Karen Meyers, daughter of Brother and Sister Martin Meyers, of Route 3, Adel, Iowa and Brother Dennis Myers, son of Brother and Sister Nelson Myers, of Route 4, Manheim, Pennsylvania were united in marriage May 7, 1977, at the Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church. Elder Joseph Flora performed the ceremony.

The couple is residing on Route 3, Adel, Iowa 50003.

JAMISON-BAUMAN

Sister Debra Jamison and Jeff Bauman, children of Brother and Sister Marlan Jamison and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bauman, of Quinter, Kansas were united in marriage June 11, 1977.

Elder Dale Jamison and Minister Gary Boone were in charge of the ceremony.

The young couple are making their home at Collyer, Kansas 67671.

OBITUARY

RAY RENSBERGER

Ray D. Rensberger was born December 16, 1900 to Clarence and Daisy (Cudney) Rensberger and departed this life June 20, 1977 at the age of 76 years, 6 months and 4 days.

He was united in marriage to Mabel Miller on February 16, 1926 and to this union was born one daughter. In 1928 this home was broken by her death. On December 7, 1929, Ray married Emma Pearl Sponsellor. This union was blessed with two sons. Pearl passed away in 1974.

Early in life he gave his heart to the Lord and for the past forty years had been a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Don (Mary Alice) Carlin, Ney, Ohio; a son, Lawrence, Sherwood, Ohio; three sisters, Mrs. George (Nina) Glissman, South Bend, Indiana; Miss Vita Rensberger, French Lick, Indiana and Mrs. Charles (Fay) Fisher, Shirley, Arkansas; two brothers, Harold, Walkerton, Indiana and Roy, Lakeville, Indiana; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A son, Burl and a brother and sister are deceased.

Services were conducted at the Greenisen and Lilton Funeral Home, Sherwood, Ohio on June 23, 1977, by Elder Harley Flory, assisted by Elder Dean St. John and Bro. Dennis St. John. Burial was in the Sherwood Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation plans to have their Fall Love Feast on Saturday, October 15th, starting at 2 o'clock with the Love Feast in the evening.

A hearty invitation is extended to all who can attend.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Lord willing, we plan to have revival meetings starting October 23 continuing for a week. We expect to close with a Love Feast on October 29. Bro. Eugene Kauffman will be our evangelist.

If you cannot be with us, pray for the meetings.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation plans to have their Love Feast Services on November 5th.

We invite all that can to join us at this meeting.

Sister Sharon Swihart, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank the Brethren and Sisters for the cards, prayers, visits, flowers, gifts and for food brought in at the home while I was in the hospital ten days and confined for six weeks.

May God bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Sister Amy Kegerreis

1926 PLEVNA MINUTES

I have supply of copies of the minutes of the 1926 meeting held at Plevna, Indiana. These minutes chronicle this meeting where the decision was made to form the Dunkard Brethren Church.

I would request that each Presiding Elder would determine how many copies are needed in each congregation and let me know so the copies for each congregation can be mailed altogether.

Secretary of General Mission Board

Brother Harley Rush

R. 1, Converse, Indiana 46919

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out of the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

OCTOBER 15, 1977

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill,
O may it all my pow'rs engage,
To do my Master's will.

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And oh, The servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give.

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely,
Assured if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die.

—Charles Wesley

STEWARDS

Stewards, in the time of the writing of the New Testament, were trusted servants who cared for their masters' business affairs, often to such an extent that their masters did not know the condition of their own business. But a day of reckoning came when the master would find out if his steward had been faithful or not. An unfaithful steward would then be turned out of his job in great humiliation. As with all human endeavors, some stewards proved faithful giving honest service to their masters, while others proved themselves dishonest or incompetent. This responsible post could gain for a faithful steward great praise and reward, but for the unfaithful, it could be a way to shame and disgrace.

A master depended upon his steward to handle his affairs honestly and to increase his wealth if possible. The stewards of old are a picture of the Christians in this Age of Grace. Each Christian is a steward. It is a position of great importance and responsibility. The Christian steward is given more to take care of than any steward in the natural life. The Christian steward is responsible for more than just the honest and precise handling of temporal affairs.

His first and greatest responsibility is the eternal soul given him by the God of Heaven. The Christian must make sure he does nothing that will harm or hinder that soul. God has no desire for the soul to be banished into an eternal punishment. But man as a steward decides in this life the eternal destiny of that soul. The natural master desired for his steward to do his job honestly and responsibly. This pleased him. The Christian has a Master, whom he must please.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Christians have received much from their Master. He expects that each will prove to be a faithful steward in the use of the time, talent and money given him. God is so gracious to the world as a whole that many, though unthankful and unconcerned, have received these same gifts. Although the world proves very prodigal in using these things, the Christian must realize his greater responsibility to please his Master.

Time is so fleeting, especially in the rushing world of today. It is so easy for time to pass without being used for the Master. The work of the Master requires effort while the allurements of the world require nothing but to drift along. Drifting unconcerned about Spiritual values or work will only waste the time that has been entrusted to Christian stewards to use for Him. In a day devoted to pleasure, sports and ease, some lose their spiritual desire and just become drifters. They see no harm in the things of pleasure, but they fail to see the time that is wasted. Certainly an account will have to be given by them of their stewardship.

The Master has given to each certain talents. He has given more talents to some than to others but He has not given all talents to any one person. There is always a need for the talent of the one who has few. Many recognize their talent but either ignore it because it is not as great as others or it is used in a way that is in concert with the world's system rather than in agreement with the Master's desire. God gives to each the talent He wishes him to have, so he has a responsibility to use and improve that talent. The steward with one talent could have increased his worth just as the other stewards did, but he chose to bury it and ended-up losing it. The Christian in humility, must use the talents entrusted to him or must give a very painful account of why he didn't.

God blesses with great financial blessings, but they are not appreciated and often are squandered upon various earthly lusts which bring no pleasure to the Master. The prosperity given to Christians is not primarily for their own enjoyment but so they can have the blessing that comes from helping others. If Christians consume these temporal gifts upon their own lusts and desires while fellow Christians suffer need or the Lord's work is hindered by lack of temporal means, surely the Master will consider them to be poor stewards.

A special kind of stewardship is given to those who are set as officials in the Church. They have a special responsibility to conserve and to build up the Church. The work is not to merely build up in numbers but in Spiritual and moral growth. God has not set them in their offices for their own glory, but that the Church might be a glory and honor to Him. Having placed them in such a

high position He will require of them a very particular accounting of their labors.

What kind of steward are you? The steward has to reckon at one time or another, you will too. Your Master is concerned how you use that which He has entrusted to you. He has given you the best. He wants the best in return.

I MISSED JESUS

"I've been to Calvary, but I missed Jesus." Those are sad words, aren't they? Someone used them to express how tragic it is to come face to face with Jesus and see what He has done for you, then come away without Him in your heart. Jesus came to save those who are lost, but He doesn't do this automatically. Recognizing Him as God's only Son, or being a good person will not save you. Personal, heart-to-heart contact with Christ is the kind which will bring life and peace to your soul.

Zacchaeus made sure that he didn't miss seeing Jesus, but the contact which followed was much more vital. Zacchaeus was chief among the publicans (tax collectors), but that didn't save him. He was rich, but that didn't save him. He was a short man and he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a tree so he could see Jesus. But that didn't save him either. What did save him then?

When Jesus was under the tree, He called for Zacchaeus to come down so He (Jesus) could go home with him. Zacchaeus did, and he joyfully received Jesus. He apparently received Jesus into his heart as well as into his house, for Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house." (See Luke 19:1-10). Receiving Jesus is what saved Zacchaeus; just seeing Him was not enough. We, too, must receive Jesus joyfully, if we want to be saved.

"And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him." Luke 8:40. They didn't miss Jesus. They knew what they were looking for; they were waiting for Jesus. Have you looked for Jesus without really knowing what you are looking for? God's Word will show you where Jesus is, what He has done for you, and how you can find Him. You need not grope around in the darkness of sin, for Jesus will give you light. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

"And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them." Matt. 15:30. Many times those along the wayside cried out to Jesus for help. They

made sure they didn't miss the opportunity to see Him, or touch Him and receive help. Jesus could handle any problem they had, if He so willed, and they knew it. Jesus wants to help us and He won't hide from us. If we miss Him, it is because we didn't look in the right direction.

"And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." Luke 10:39. You don't need to go to the actual site of Calvary to find Jesus. Neither must you sit literally at His feet in order to learn about Him. Can you picture in your mind how Christ died on the Cross for you? He paid the penalty there for your sins. When He arose from the grave, He gave you the privilege of Eternal Life, if you will receive Him. You can go to Calvary in your mind and be at Jesus' feet. But if you come away without believing in Him, you've truly missed Jesus. And, when you miss Jesus, you've missed everything God wants to give you.

Do you know where Jesus is now? After He finished His work on this earth, He went back to be with His Father. There Jesus is interceding for all who will accept and obey Him. Do you know what He has done for you? Jesus paid the penalty for sin with His blood when He died on the Cross. He was without sin, making Him the only acceptable sacrifice. To those who will believe in Him, He will give His best — life, peace of mind, joy, love.

How can you find Jesus? "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13. To seek for Him wholeheartedly means you want to receive Christ into your life more than you want anything else. You want to be free from the trap sin has you in and you want to do God's will. The search ends when you have repented and turned your life over to Christ.

If you have missed Jesus or if you have tried to conform to the Christian way just because someone said it's the thing to do, it's time to seek Jesus. Without Him, life has no meaning and eternity holds nothing but sorrow. Don't miss the best that God can give you. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.." John 3:16. God gave us Jesus; don't miss Him.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



Of all the commentaries upon the Scriptures, good examples are the best and the liveliest. —Donne

CHILDREN'S PAGE

SAMSON'S REVENGE

JUDGES 15

Samson's wife had been given to another man but Samson didn't know it. She had revealed the meaning of Samson's riddle to her Philistine friends; Samson, being angry, returned to the home of his parents. After a while he went to see his wife and took a kid with him as a peace offering. Her father told Samson that he thought Samson had utterly hated her, so he had given her to another man. He offered to give Samson another daughter but Samson would have none of that. Now he really was angry. He caught three hundred foxes and tied them together in pairs by their tails. Foxes have large, bushy tails. Samson set fire to their tails and turned them loose in the Philistines' fields of wheat. It was the time for wheat harvest and the fields were dry. Three hundred foxes could set fire to alot of wheat. The fire was so great it burned the Philistines' corn and olive groves and their vineyards.

Samson was still not satisfied so he went out and killed a large number of the Philistines. Now the Philistines were angry and decided they would have to kill Samson. They gathered together an army of men and went into the land of Judah where the Jews lived. The men of Judah asked the Philistines why they were in the land and they replied, "To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us."

Three thousand men of Judah went to Samson and said, "Don't you know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What is this that you have done?" Samson said, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." And they said, "We are come down to bind you, that we may deliver you to the Philistines." Samson said, "Promise me that you will not fall upon me yourselves." And they replied, "No, we will not kill you, but we will bind you fast and deliver you into the hands of the Philistines." So they bound Samson with new ropes and brought him to the Philistines.

Now the action started. When the Philistines saw Samson bound, they were jubilant and shouted against him. What do you think Samson did? The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and he broke those ropes as if they were burnt with fire. Samson didn't have any weapon to fight with, but he found a jawbone of an ass on the ground and taking it he killed a thousand Philistines. He was so strong and so fast, the Philistines didn't have a chance.

With the Spirit of the Lord, Samson could defeat the Philistines. The Apostle Paul tells us to "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." We can be overcomers of Satan by using "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph. 6:10, 17.

LOVING HIS APPEARING

We should love it because of its significance, as shown by the large space it occupies in the Scripture, and because of its purifying and transforming power. This Truth purifies and transforms the life as nothing else does. After John, in his First Epistle, said, "...when he shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see him as he is", he said, "and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:2-3.

Three references emphasize the Christian's duty. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." Jas. 5:7a. "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Phil. 4:5. "...Be sincere and without offense, till the day of Christ." Phil. 1:10. The effect upon the life of many should be revolutionary. Doubtful practices, long indulged-in, should be given up, burdensome weights should be laid aside, besetting sins should be overcome and more fruitful service enjoyed.

The Doctrine of the Advent provides a safe guard against error. Those who cherish the hope of the Lord's return are not often deceived or easily ensnared, because they read and study their Bible. Such are not like the Sadducees, whom Jesus told, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." Matt. 22:29b. The High Priest said to Jesus, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." Matt. 26:63. Jesus answered, "Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the righthand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matt. 26:64.

The Second Coming of Christ means His coronation upon the earth, where He was rejected and crucified. Before His birth, the angel assured His mother, "...the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David... and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:33-34. This promise still awaits fulfillment.

Resurrection is the antidote of death. "...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." I Cor. 15:54. We believe in the resurrection of the body because the body is all that goes into the grave. "The Spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl. 12:7b.

Redemption is God's reconstructive process. The Spirit is purified, the mind clarified and the body glorified. This is full salvation. This is "...the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14, for which we are to live and work and pray.

Brother Ray S. Shank

GOOD BYE

"Good bye" is a beautiful word! To some it seems to indicate that we may never meet again. It seems terminal! But to those of us who know the meaning and original intent of the word, we find it inspiring to say "Good bye."

In Colonial times, our forefathers were noted to say, "God be with ye," when parting. This saying expressed kindly concern, before parting, for God's watch, care and protection, for His abiding presence, and for renewed and continued fellowship with God on the part of those to whom it was spoken. How beautiful! "God be with ye!" "Good bye."

There is no question in our minds that we speak more rapidly and with less careful diction than men did in those early times, when they said, "God be with ye." Language has changed. Men no longer say "Can't you?" They now say "Can't cha?" "Bet you" has become "Bet cha" and "O, what will I do?" has become "O, waddle I do?" Listen carefully next time you hear one of these phrases. Even "God be with ye" has become streamlined into "Good bye," thus losing much of its beauty and most of its meaning.

Now in some remote areas and among some ultra-conservative peoples, I am told, one can still hear them say "The Lord be with you." Somehow they have continued the original thought and intent that our forefathers must have had in mind when they said "God be with ye," and what their children had in mind when they first started saying "Good bye."

The term "Good bye" is not terminal. It is inspirational. It is not a sad expression but rather a careful, prayerful, and hopeful one.

The song "God Be With You 'till We Meet Again" may help us recapture what the saints had in mind when they said "God be with ye."

Brother Paul A. Hartz, Jr.
703 W. Cherry St., Palmyra, Pa. 17078

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

In 1894, the Brethren Publishing House published under the direction of General Conference a Commentary on the New Testament. This commentary was written by Elder L. W. Teeter (1845-1927) of Indiana. His comments upon the Book of Revelation are still very relevant for us today. A few of his notes will be given here.

From his introduction to Revelation: "The subject matter, beginning principally with chapter 4, to the end of the book, consists, more or less, of great mysteries. These have been the burden of

many learned authors. Many of their labored expositions are extant, among which no two can be found, however, that agree with each other. This proves (1) that there are not enough of plainly-revealed facts relative to those mysteries to render a safe interpretation of them possible; (2) that, at some times in their expositions, they were compelled to rely upon conjecture; (3) that they are at least all incorrect except one, — possibly all are incorrect. Since there is but one true meaning possible, therefore no two interpretations that differ can possibly both be correct. If it should be admitted that one of the many interpretations was correct, it would be as great an impossibility to prove which it should be, because of a lack of evidences within such interpretations. It would appear scarcely less than folly to give an exposition of those mysteries, when there is not a sufficiency of plainly-revealed testimony to fully support such exposition.

“Therefore, in the preparation of the following comments, great care has been taken to keep on safe ground, and not in the least to misguide any one in the study of this wonderful panorama of unseen and unknown things.

“However great the mysteries of the Book of Revelation, yet in chapter 1:3 it is plainly stated that a blessing follows the reading of it, with an effort to understand it... It may be that this saying was uttered to encourage the reading of it, notwithstanding its mysteries. The careful reading, therefore, of the Book of Revelation will always bring blessings to the reader. It may also be added that, if it is read carefully and prayerfully, there are many more things about it that are highly interesting than is generally thought.

“Wherefore from all the foregoing considerations, we must conclude that it should be read carefully,—looking to God its Author, that he may guide us into its meaning from time to time as it may please him.

“It is also very clear that the Book of Revelation is in a great part a book of prophecy. Therefore we may reasonably expect that in the course of events, those prophecies will, one by one, be fulfilled. Hence if we are diligent in reading it, we will be certain to have the earliest benefit of any and every fulfillment; whereas, if we should not so read it, we could not have such blessings. Again, it is very clear that the Lord did not intend that we should comprehend all of the Revelation as soon as it was given. If he had he would have given it to us in the plainest form in the first place.

“In the study of the Revelation no one should become so over-absorbed as to neglect the study of other Scriptures - especially those of the New Testament, as some have done, and have become

mentally unbalanced, and made themselves unfit for general church work. Such an abuse of ourselves and the Book is not pleasing to God; neither can such an injudicious course entitle one to the blessings it is intended to minister.

"The mysterious parts of the Book of the Revelation should be accepted by us as simply the revelation of facts, whether (1) of certain coming events, or (2) of the existence of certain things or conditions pertaining to the eternal state. Thus far it is consistently called "revelation", from the fact that if it were not for the statements of those mysterious things as made in the Book of Revelation we could not know of even the existence of those things or coming events.

"It should be noticed that this feature of the Book of Revelation makes it all the more interesting to the reader, (1) From the fact that all the events spoken of in it will certainly and "shortly come to pass." (2) From the fact every one is in some way or manner interested, and shall in some way or manner be affected by the things spoken of, as so many assessments to either his weal or woe in the future; according as he may have lived. (3) From the fact that it is a characteristic of man after he has a knowledge of a coming event, or of the existence of a thing, to enter into a particular knowledge of such event or thing. (4) From the fact that at any moment of man's natural life he may be overtaken by death, and be ushered into the very presence of many of those things and conditions, and be brought into a fuller knowledge of them."

From his note on Rev. 6:2-17, "The scenes which appeared to John at the opening of the seven seals are highly symbolical. Their positive significations are as yet unknown by man. There seems to be such an insufficiency of plainly-revealed, relative facts as to make the interpretation of the mysterious possible. There are many texts in the prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah which are very similar in language to texts in this book, but there are no plainly-stated allusions made in these texts to those in the prophecies. The prophecies can therefore not be applied as the key to unlock the mysteries of the Revelation given to John as some have done. Many commentators have undertaken to give the significations of these symbols. Their efforts, when compared with each other, show their interpretations to be merely fanciful, no two of them agreeing. Some of them appear probable, but none of them with positive proof. God evidently revealed all that he wanted man to know. Any effort, therefore, upon the part of man to pry into that which God designs he shall not know is useless and vain. From the foregoing considerations it is far better to leave the text unincumbered by what likely would be an erroneous interpretation. The text, as it is given to us, is sublime

and highly interesting as a system of symbolism, behind which there is certain knowledge."

From his note on Rev. 10:4, "Here we have a revelation of the existence of certain things, but not of what the things are. Those things were evidently understood by John in some sense, because he was about to write them when he heard a voice forbidding it. If the voice from heaven forbade John to write the things which the seven thunders uttered, but commanded him to seal them up, has any man the privilege afterward to give an exposition of what may be supposed to be the utterances of those voices? Certainly not. We may be assured of the following facts: (1) If God did not want man to know what those voices uttered when John was on the isle of Patmos, he is able to prevent any other man from knowing and writing them, until he is pleased to have men to know them. (2) God had a design in forbidding John to write those utterances. We must admit that it was for the good of man not to know them; else God had not prohibited the writing of them. From these facts we are driven to the conclusion that, so long as an author who attempts to write what the seven thunders uttered does not have the same or equally as good opportunities to know the things they uttered, and so long as he does not prove that he has permission directly from God to write them, it is unsafe for us to accept any production written by any man, purporting to be an exposition of those sealed utterances. Even if it were possible for any man to write them before God designed man to know them, it would be wrong for us to read them."

From his note on Rev. 11:18, "Many conflicting opinions are offered upon the symbols of this chapter. Some of them are ingenious, and bear some apparent indications of correctness; but when all of them are carefully read the naked text is still far more interesting and satisfactory than any of them when one is searching after the truth."

From his note between Chapters 11 and 12, "Many parts of the symbolism of this and the next chapter appear easy of interpretations while other parts are mysterious. Yet, because of the lack of direct proof, it would be unwise to give even what appears to be a very clear interpretation of them. On religious and spiritual subjects we should desire the truth, nothing more or less than the truth. He who desires to be truly faithful does not want to base his faith on that which possibly may be erroneous. Hence, from every standpoint of reasoning, we must conclude that it is unwise, unsafe and vain to venture, as yet, upon the mysterious field of the Revelation as an interpreter.

Some may think that, in a work of this kind, the author should

speak out, — or if he has no opinion, give that which, in his judgment, is the best extant of some other author. All should see that the bare text, even if not understood, is far safer and better than an erroneous notion believed. An error believed is a hindrance to the acceptance of the truth. The certainty of the future development of these now hidden facts should encourage us to greater perseverance in the careful reading of the text of the Revelation. God certainly gave it to his servants that they should read the things that must shortly and certainly come to pass.”

From his note on chapter 17, “The symbolism of this chapter is also very obscure. Commentators and others should be exceedingly careful in offering their interpretations of those symbols. To offer an improper explanation upon the Word of God, and content for it as being the truth according to the mind and Spirit of God, is really making out a falsehood upon the credit of God. This no man can afford to do, since God will bring every work into judgment, where it will be tested according to the same mind that first authorized his word.”

From his note on chapter 20, “Much of chapter 20 pertains to the thousand-year period, often called “Millennium” - a thousand years. Much has been written on this subject, which, to say the least, is only conjecture, to such an extent that one is not justifiable in making it the basis of his faith. It is a fact, however, that John received the revelation that there would be a period of a thousand years. The interest that every saint will have in that period should inspire him to read and meditate upon it as one of the precious events attending his future state of blessedness. The text itself is very emphatic on the point of its duration. Some of the conditions of that period are also given. We may be confident that all was revealed that God wanted man to know, and that he will not hold man responsible to know or believe that which is not revealed. Further, God will certainly be much displeased with those who will imagine and teach a doctrine that never existed in his mind, concerning this as well as any other subject.”

In this age of great, earthly knowledge, it is good for us, as a people of God, to give heed to the humble and humbling words of Elder Teeter.



All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. —Emerson

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Charles Leatherman is 1-18158-H, Wauseon, Ohio 43567. His telephone number remains the same.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor would like to thank those who have continued to hold the needs of the Bible Monitor before God in prayer. He is thankful for those who have supplied articles and other material. Also the recent new and renewed subscriptions to the Bible Monitor are appreciated. Again a reminder is made that unless you write articles for publication, the Bible Monitor will contain only selected pieces. If you want a paper containing original articles please do your part. By all means continue to pray. Thank you.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation is planning a one week Revival Meeting, the Lord willing, starting Monday night October 31st and ending Sunday night, November 6th. Bro. Eugene Kauffman of Harrisonburg, Virginia will be our evangelist.

There will be all-day services, November 5 and 6. Saturday morning service at 11:00 A.M. Lovefeast services at 7:30 P.M.

We invite everyone who can to come enjoy these meetings with us. If you can not come, please pray for the saving of souls.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

THANK-YOU

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I want to thank each and everyone over the Brotherhood, for prayers, cards, letters, and gifts of love, I received since June and after my major surgery in August.

What a joy it is to have friends who DO care, and above all, a God who loves and cares for us. We know He has promised never to leave us alone. Continue to pray for us. May He bless each of you richly, is my prayer.

Sister Marilyn, Randy and
Marci Gingrich



Fame, to the ambitious, is like salt water to the thirsty - the more one gets, the more he wants. —Ebers

GOD IS HERE

There is no loneliness in life
As long as God is here,
Because His presence is a source
Of comfort and of cheer.
We do not see Him at our side
Or touch His gentle hand,
And yet we know that He is here
To help and understand.
And we can hear His loving voice
And all He deigns to say,
If only we are not disposed
To turn our hearts away.
Because of the words of wisdom He
Is eager to impart,
Are those that He is whispering
Directly to the heart.
And so there is no loneliness
Or need for any fear,
As long as we remind ourselves
That God is always here.

- James J. Metcalfe

Selected by Sister Della Klepinger

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 6 — Mystery Babylon. Rev. 17:1-18.

Nov. 13 — THANKSGIVING - Psalms 111:1-10.

Nov. 20 — The fall of Babylon. Rev. 18:1-24.

Nov. 27 — "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Rev. 19:1-21.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) What city of the world do you think could be called, "Mystery Babylon?" Rev. 17:5, 18; Rev. 17:9.
- (2) What does David say, "the fear of the Lord" is? Psalms 111:10.
- (3) Why did God say, concerning Babylon, "Come out of her my people?" Rev. 18:4.
- (4) Who will mourn the judgments of Babylon? Rev. 18:9, 11.
- (5) What is the fine linen, clean and white, that the Bride of Christ is arrayed in? Rev. 19:8.
- (6) Who is "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords?" Rev. 19:11-16; John 1:1, 14.

THE PASTOR-CUSTODIAN

To be care-taker of the Church
Is a calling of the Lord,
It's a place where people congregate
To hear his Holy Word.

So many things there are to do
To keep the house intact,
You want the Lord to say of you
"Not one thing, I see, you've lacked."

Many things of interest you will find
As the work you now pursue,
It may be purses left behind
Or gum stuck on the pew.

The pew racks catch a lot of things
Which often spoil their looks,
Will the public ever know
They were put there for the books.

Another thing you'll often find
Which you will sure abhor,
A wad of old chewing gum
Pressed hard upon the floor.

Your work on Saturday is done
You view it with delight,
But Sunday morning you discern
That cob-webs grow at night.

When your "pastor-days" are ended
From which you must retire,
Just keep the house of God so nice
That folks will all admire.

Be patient with the thoughtless folk
As custodian of the Church,
So when the summons call, "come home"
You'll not be in the lurch.

- Homer F. Caskey

Selected by Brother Clarence R. Gehr



Waste of time is the most extravagant and costly of all expenses.
—Theophrastus

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1977

CORRECTION AND CORRUPTION

Memory Verse: Job 5:17

Behold, happy is the man whom
God correcteth: therefore de-
spise no thou the chastening of
the Almighty:

Tues. 1-Job 5:1-27

Wed. 2-Job 37:1-24

Thur. 3-Psa. 39:1-13

Fri. 4-Psa. 94:1-23

Sat. 5-Pro. 3:1-35

Memory Verse: Psa. 39:11

When thou with rebukes dost
correct man for iniquity, thou
makest his beauty to consume
away like a moth: surely every
man is vanity. Selah.

Sun. 6-Pro. 15:33

Mon. 7-Pro. 22:1-29

Tues. 8-Pro. 23:1-35

Wed. 9-Pro. 29:1-27

Thur. 10-Jer. 2:1-19

Fri. 11-Jer. 2:20-37

Sat. 12-Jer. 7:1-28

Memory Verse: Pro. 3:11, 12

My son, despise not the chasten-
ing of the Lord; neither be weary
of his correction: For whom the
Lord loveth he correcteth; even
as a father the son in whom he
delighteth.

Sun. 13-Jer. 10:1-25

Mon. 14-Jer. 30:1-24

Tues. 15-Jer. 46:1-28

Wed. 16-Hab. 1:1-17

Thur. 17-Zeph. 3:1-20

Fri. 18-II Tim. 3:1-17

Sat. 19-Heb. 12:1-29

Memory Verse: Jer. 10:24

O Lord, correct me, but with
judgment; not in thine anger, lest
thou bring me to nothing.

Sun. 20-Gen. 6:1-22

Mon. 21-Ex. 32:1-29

Tues. 22-Deut. 4:1-24

Wed. 23-Deut. 4:25-49

Thur. 24-Psa. 107:1-43

Fri. 25-Deut. 9:1-29

Sat. 26-Deut. 31:1-30

Memory Verse: Jud. 2:19

And it came to pass, when the
judge was dead, that they re-
turned, and corrupted them-
selves more than their fathers, in
following other gods to serve
them, and to bow down unto
them; they ceased not from their
own doings, nor from their stub-
born way.

Sun. 27-Deut. 32:1-26

Mon. 28-Deut. 32:27-52

Tues. 29-Jud. 2:1-23

Wed. 30-II Kings 23:1-27

Memory Verse: II Tim. 3:16

All scripture is given by inspi-
ration of God, and is profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for cor-
rection, for instruction in
righteousness:

Heb. 12:9

Furthermore we have had fathers
of our flesh which corrected us,
and we gave them reverence:
shall we not much rather be in
subjection unto the Father of
spirits, and live?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

NOVEMBER 1, 1977

NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HASTE, TRAVELER, HASTE

Haste, trav'ler, haste! the night comes on,
And many a shining hour is gone;
The storm is gath'ring in the west,
And thou art far from home and rest.

The rising tempest sweeps the sky,
The rains descend, the winds are high;
The waters swell, and death and fear
Beset thy path — no refuge near.

O yes, a shelter you may gain —
A covert from the wind and rain —
A hiding place, a rest, a home —
A refuge from the wrath to come.

Then linger not in all the plain —
Flee for thy life — the mountain gain;
Look not behind — make no delay —
O, speed thee, speed thee on thy way.

- W. B. Collyer

MEANING BUSINESS WITH GOD

As we go through life many things bid for our attention. Some we ignore, some we do half-heartedly and some we give ourselves whole-heartedly to do. God demands that we give Him whole-hearted service. To ignore Him or to serve Him half-heartedly is to displease Him, especially if we have promised to be His faithful followers. We must mean business with God.

In Jer. 42 we have the record of some who professed to be serious about serving God but failed to live up to their profession. After the destruction of Jerusalem and the carrying away of most of the people to Babylon by King Nebuchnezzar, there was only a small remnant left in the land of Judah. Under the governorship of Gedaliah the Jews became relatively prosperous and suffered little from the rule of the Babylonians. But after Gedaliah was murdered, fear fell upon this remnant. They longingly looked towards Egypt as a hoped-for refuge. This remnant now led by Johanan, turned to Jeremiah that he might seek the Lord's direction for them.

They were very profuse in their declarations that whatever God would demand of them, they would do. "Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the Lord our God." Jer. 42:6. They wisely realized that obedience would be to their benefit. From the lips of Jeremiah they heard the message God had for them. He gave them great promises of blessing and protection if they would stay in the land. He also warned them of serious calamities if they removed to Egypt. Would they prove true to the promise that they made when

THE BIBLE MONITOR

NOVEMBER 1, 1977

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York; Pa. 17403

sending Jeremiah to the Lord?

They did not keep their pledge. "So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the Lord:" Jer. 43:7a. They were unhappy at the word of God. Jeremiah told them that they had dissembled in their hearts. To dissemble means to "vacillate," "to be carried away," "to go astray" or "to go out of the way." They quickly proved their disobedience by moving to Egypt where they expected peace and safety. But they found out shortly that God's Word is true for there they suffered the very things that they were fleeing from.

This group of people - God's people - were not the first nor the last who disobeyed God even after pledging lifelong service. They didn't mean business with God. Many Christians have followed the same course; they have tried to find relief in "Egypt" - the remedies of the world. Egypt has been a picture of the world and its allurements ever since the days of Moses. It shows the allurements that Satan puts before God's people to cause them to disregard the promises of faithful service that they have made. Going to "Egypt" seems so logical in a natural way but will prove disastrous Spiritually. How many Christians mean business with God?

Promises and vows are made at the beginning of the Christian walk-of-life. There are vows of faithfulness and obedience to God and the Church and of renunciation of Satan and his ways made with a determination to succeed. However, Satan in his cunning way slowly and stealthily draws one away from keeping the promises so strongly made at the beginning.

God cares whether those vows are kept or not. The wise man says, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it: he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou has vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." Eccles. 5:4-5. God's Word calls a man who does not pay his vow a fool. It is a serious matter for God to call any man a fool. No one wants to be a fool in this life yet many prove to be because they do not pay their vows. Not only is it in the great affairs of life that our vows must be fulfilled but also in the small promises we make. Moses in Deut. 23:21-23 says, "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth." So often promises of increased service for the Lord or of greater material donations to the Lord's Work are made, especially upon sick-beds

or in times of danger. But very often when the means come to hand to fulfill that vow, it is forgotten. Many times promises of great deeds or great gifts are made but smaller deeds and gifts which are at hand are not rendered unto God.

Have you made promises to God? Are you trying your best to carry out those promises or has Satan and the world allured you toward "Egypt?" Do you mean business with God?

BOUND BY LOVE

Someone dreamed of visiting both Heaven and Hell. The people in Hell had very long-handled spoons which they could not place in their own mouths. They were unable to feed themselves, so they were starving at a table full of food. The dream goes on to a glimpse of Heaven. The people there also had long-handled spoons, but they were feeding each other! Because they loved each other, they gave to each other. In so doing, all were cared for, whereas the people in Hell were selfishly trying to feed themselves. They were starving as a result.

This, of course, was only a dream, but it shows us the difference that love makes. A husband and wife are bound to each other by law, but if that is all that holds them together, it will certainly be an empty relationship. It takes love to make a marriage what it should be. For a Christian, love is the basis for everything. This includes the home life, but it doesn't stop there. When motivated by love, the effect is felt and seen in all his activities. We are truly bound by love, not by law, to serve the Lord - in giving, in sharing, in caring for each other.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth is that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die for us. Because Christ loved us enough to die for us, we have been made free, if we will accept what He has already done for us. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Gal. 5:13. Now that we are set free, it's time to serve, not because we must, but because we want to. Love for others and a genuine concern for their needs is the only thing which will give us the desire to serve.

"And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Mark 7:9. You may religiously follow a system which seems good to you, but if God does not come first, you will not be acceptable. Drawing others to your system will not help them either. Only when you have been

set free in Christ, and put Him first, are you able to help others. "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." II Pet. 2:19. Servants of the Devil are in a bondage which is a trap. Christians are in bondage to Christ, but it is a bond of love. We are free to serve Christ, and we will because we love Him, not because some rule says it's our duty.

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." I John 3:16. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. God loves us and He gives us love for others. This love is a testimony to others that we belong to the Lord. It is also the force which moves us to give of ourselves to others, even to laying down our lives. Love gives - love serves - love forgives. Love binds us to God and to man. No law could ever do what love does.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23. When you really love the Lord, you will keep His words because you desire to please Him. When His presence is within you, you can more easily please Him because close personal contact helps you to know what God wants you to do. He may have a special work for you or it may be something very ordinary. Whatever your task is, do it with love, not grudgingly.

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Col. 3:14. "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men." Eph. 6:7. Love makes the difference between feeling privileged to serve and feeling that serving is a drudgery. Serve because you love, not because you feel forced to. There is no blessing or joy in serving unless it is done freely. God's love is not a confining trap, even though you belong to Him and He expects you to serve Him. Willing service prompted by love is what He is looking for. Is this what you give? Are you bound to the Lord by love?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554



The innocence of the intention abates nothing of the mischief of the example. —Hall

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

JUDGES 16:4-20

The Lord said Samson was to be a Nazarite all his life. A Nazarite was one who took a vow to not eat any unclean thing or eat grapes or raisins or drink wine or strong drink and to never cut his hair. This was a command of God and as long as Samson obeyed God's rules, he had strength to do anything.

But Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman, whose name was Delilah. When the Philistine leaders heard about it, they came to Delilah and said, "Entice Samson and see wherein his great strength lieth, and how we can overcome him and bind him and afflict him. And we will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver." This was a lot of money and Delilah determined to find out the secret of Samson's strength.

Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me wherein your great strength lieth and how you could be bound so others could afflict you." Samson must have known what was going on, so he decided to have some fun out of it. He said, "If they bind me with seven green cords made of twisted green wood that was never dried, then I shall be weak and be as another man." Delilah couldn't tell the Philistines fast enough. They brought her the green cords and she tied Samson and bound him tight. There were men waiting in Delilah's room. When she had Samson tied up properly, she said, "Samson, the Philistines be upon thee." He broke the cords as if they were nothing. It doesn't say what happened to the men who were hiding, but I suspect they ran for their lives.

Delilah said to Samson, "You've mocked me; you've told me lies! Now tell me the truth! How can you be bound?" Samson said, "If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were used, then shall I be weak as another man." Then Delilah took new ropes and bound him and said, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." There were men hiding in Delilah's house this time too, but Samson broke those new ropes from off his arms like a thread.

Again Delilah begged him and Samson said, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with a web." Delilah did so and fastened it with a pin to a beam - probably in the wall of the house. Samson was asleep and again she called Samson. He woke up and walked away with the pin of the beam. He just tore everything loose!

Delilah was desperate. Samson loved her and she knew it. Day after day, she wept and pleaded and begged and said, "How can

you say you love me when you lie to me and mock me and your heart is not with me?" And it came to pass that Samson's soul was vexed and he told her all his heart and said, "No razor has ever touched my head. If I be shorn, then my strength will go from me and I shall be weak and be like any other man."

I suppose that Samson thought by telling her all his heart that she wouldn't betray him. But Delilah wanted money - not Samson. She made Samson sleep upon her knees, then she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of Samson's hair. Then she began to afflict him and his strength went from him. She said, "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." Samson awoke and said to himself, "I will go out as at other times." He didn't realize that the Lord had departed from him. The Philistines came and took him and put out his eyes and took him to their city of Gaza and bound him with fetters of brass and made him grind grain in the prison house.

Poor Samson - now he was weak, yet he had to be driven around and round to turn a heavy stone that was used to grind grain into flour. He was blind and they whipped him if he slowed down. How terrible to have known such strength, then when he was weak to be forced to work like a horse.

Samson's great strength was only his as long as he kept the rules of God. Does this mean anything to us? We, too, can be strong in the Lord if we do what Jesus tells us. If we disobey Him, we will become weak and a slave to Satan.

Brother Rudy Cover

REVIVAL

Many Revival Meetings are being conducted each year. What is the purpose of revival? It is a cleansing, a refreshing, a renewal from the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We had a great drought this past summer. Did the grass and vegetation die? No. When the refreshing rainfall came, the lawns and gardens burst into new life. This was the evidence of a great revival, that only God could give. All the neighbors talked about the wonderful rainfall and how grateful we were.

To illustrate my thought of a revival, may I tell you about the farm home where we lived that had a spring of water under the house. The spring was feeding a pool across the driveway. It was beautiful. It was built up with stones on each side with flowers planted near the edge.

We enjoyed observing the spring of water, and how it responded

to drought. The water became stagnant, moss collected all around it, the water changed its color, it looked sad. Then, when there was a great rainfall, the water came rushing through the pool, removing all the moss, cleansing the pool until it entered the tile, twenty-five feet away. Once more the spring was beautiful.

This is a lesson for our own Christian life. Each time I am privileged to attend a Revival Meeting, I am reminded of that spring. The Gospel is preached, with power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. It floods our souls like the mighty rushing water. There is a real cleansing of the soul, and the Spirit convicts us of any sin we may have committed. Every unkind word or selfish thought comes flooding our soul. We have no peace, until we confess our fault to God.

Once more the Holy Spirit finds a sweet resting place in our hearts. Our souls are refreshed. We respond with a new life in Christ. We are filled with enthusiasm. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20. That is how the early Church grew and souls were added to the Lord.

I will conclude this lesson by quoting from the song "Cleanse Me."

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my tho'ts, I pray:
See if there be some wicked way in me:
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee;
Send a revival, start the work in me:
Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need:
For blessing now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
5290 W. ST. Rte. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

NO

"...Resist the devil,...." James 4:7.

"Love not the world,...." I John 2:15.

That we are living in a time of shallow thinking, careless living, weak convictions and otherwise giving way to the Devil is a matter few Christians will deny. The question is, "How shall we cope with the situation at hand?" There is but one place to go for the answer. There is one and only one true source from which we can get the true answer to all our questions, the chart for all our journeys, the assurance for all our doubts. 'Tis the Word of God, the Blessed Book, which we call the Bible.

Eccl. 3:7 states that there is "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." An old adage is, "Silence is golden." Many have been the occasions when professing Christians have taken the path of least resistance or no resistance, by keeping silent rather than saying, "No, I won't violate the laws of God." The Bible tells us of a number of God's men, who dared to say, "No," at the right time.

This was true of Job. Here was a man who was upright before God. He "feared God and eschewed evil." Job 1:1. We find, also, that God blessed Job with ten children, seven sons and three daughters. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Psa. 127:3. Verse three of the first chapter, tells us of Job's great household and his thousands of livestock.

Satan always hates to see one of God's children prosper. Satan says to God, "Doth Job fear God for nought." Job 1:9. God permitted the Devil to touch Job in any way he saw fit, save the taking of his life. First, Satan destroyed Job's possessions, including his stock and his servants. Next on Satan's program of destruction was the killing of Job's children. Job 1:19. Verse 22, in the same chapter, tells us that, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job said, "No," to the Devil.

Imagine the misery, sadness and heartache Job experienced at losing his property and his children, only to be followed by the further torment of his own physical body. Job 2:7. Job's wife, who might have been expected to encourage and comfort this man of God, said, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die." Job 2:9b. In all he encountered, Job sinned not with his lips. In effect Job said "No."

The need is great today for people who can resist the Devil's device with a firm answer, "No," whether it be introduced by loved ones, friends, associates or anyone else. Jesus stated, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37.

The three Hebrews, though Nebuchadnezzar, the King, made an image of gold and ordered the people to fall down and worship it, in effect said "No." "...be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Dan. 3:18.

Some who hesitate to say, "No," may ask, "Why don't you cooperate with such and such a movement?" Cooperating is not always good for Christianity. Even the Herodians and the Pharisees, who were bitter enemies, cooperated when it came to crucifying the Son of God.

To be continued in next issue.

Brother Ray S. Shank

CONTAGIOUS DISCONTENTMENT

SIMON SCHROCK

"We just want to make you comfortable," the advertiser says. The item he is promoting makes me more comfortable, happier, and life easier. Comfort, happiness, peace of mind, relaxation, enjoyment—buy it all through the advertiser. I have second thoughts. That they just want to make me comfortable, and out of step. To get "with it" I must spend my money on their items to conform and feel comfortable. They want me to pull my money into their coffers to gain comfort.

The car dealer says, "We want to make you happy." He really wants to make me unhappy with my present car. My car is seven years old. It runs and serves me well. The "system" wants me to feel uncomfortable with it. Since it does not have many of the new "improvements" on it, they want to make me unhappy, so I'll buy a new one and increase their profits.

Notice how clothing ads are designed for comfort and happiness. Last year the design was one style. This year something else. Have they really discovered a more comfortable and practical design? Nonsense! They are trying to make you uncomfortable in last year's outfit. If grandmother's feet were comfortable with big heels, why did mother need to torture herself on spikes? If spikes were so great, why does the "now" generation need to go to a style that looks like they came from grandmother's closet? Wide trousers to tight. Tight to bell bottoms. Wide ties to narrow—narrow to wide. Why? To make you feel uncomfortable in the eyes of the people. So to regain comfort you will spend your money into the system for them to use to make you uncomfortable again next year.

Brush your teeth with "sex appeal" toothpaste. Eat "sex appeal" food. Sport a "sexy" car, clothes and colors. Then you are with it. (With what?) The truth is you are hooked on your lust appeal. The advertisers know more about lust and how to appeal to the natural man than what sex really is. Their ads are lies. One brand of toothpaste does not give "sex appeal" over another. Neither do "milk drinkers make better lovers." The Bible does not suggest love coming in a glass of milk or tube of toothpaste. It's a devilish appeal to the lust of man to trick him into spending his money. What kind of foolish people are we that we don't know the difference between sex and toothpaste? Greed for money uses sin to get gain. Monkeys don't need money. They haven't been stupid enough to think toothpaste is sexy. Maybe they know more about sex than the advertisers. Things are not sexy. The minds of men

are. Speaking of "sex appeal" toothpaste, I refuse the stuff. Sex is too sacred to connect it with a tube of toothpaste in order to get money.

Brand A saves more time and work. More than what? Brand B is cleaner. Cleaner than what? You'll be happier with Brand C. Happier than what? That is the advertiser's way of making us unhappy, believing we can regain it by buying his gadgets. After the "new toy" novel wears off and the monthly reminders keep coming, the uncomfortable, discontent feeling returns too. We've been hooked. Now we have many uncomfortable years to pay up.

I refuse to let the advertisers tell me when I need a new car. When this one doesn't serve me, then I'll start looking for what I need. I refuse to let them mess with my wardrobe. When my shoes wear out, then I'll buy others. I'll look for something practical, comfortable and decent to serve Jesus in. After all, it's Him I'm dressing for. I refuse to spend the money God loaned me because some style designer across the ocean decided heels should be higher and trouser legs flared. That is the trick of the process—to make you feel out of tune with the world, unhappy, uncomfortable, and discontent till you spend to fit in. It is to get you to release your money to the economic system. My life isn't dedicated to keeping such a system going.

Some scriptural guidelines may help us to draw our spending into a more Christian perspective and resist the high pressures of the advertisers. First, seek first the kingdom of God. Necessary things will be added. Do kingdom buying. Does it have anything to do with God's kingdom? Is our spending supplying needs He is providing, or is it to satisfy personal ego? Before you buy, consider God. Put Him first.

Second, love God with all your heart, mind and soul. Can you imagine what would happen if the church would put her time, energy and money to work for Christ out of love for Him? I can't imagine what kind of community this would be. We may think we are removed from the heart of demonism. Perhaps. But we are drunk with affluence. Satan isn't choicely how he deceives people. Addiction to the world and its things is his stronghold in America. If Christians would love Christ with all their heart, then He would cast out the world demons that grip us.

Third, learn contentment. Paul said, "I have learned...to be content." His contentment didn't come from more things, but faith in Christ. While the world is striving for more wealth to buy the best comfort to enjoy the most pleasure, we need contentment. The Christian should relax in trust while the world rushes on to earn suicide. His energy should be channeled into service for Christ and

be content with less things. North American Christians become discontent after comparing themselves with society. If we must compare, then compare our luxuries with what the South American has to barely exist on.

Fourth, keep the conversation heavenward, "from whence we also look for the Saviour." Our way of life is from heaven. We are citizens of heaven. If so, we would do well to pay more attention to our citizenship, and less on temporal things. Differences that divide us are often caused by our discontentment because of another's wealth. Our conversations center too much on who is making the cash and how. The money maker is projected as the real man, while the earthly poorer, but spiritual giant, is made to look like a welfare tag-along. This broods discontentment and breaks down equality of brotherhood in Christ. We should "provoke one another unto love." Sunday after-dinner conversations should inspire its young listeners to become strong persons for Christ.

To be a disciple means giving Jesus our undivided loyalty. He must be our way of life. No divided attention on time, money, and possessions. No using Him just as a first class ticket to heaven. He wants all of you. The enemy of Jesus wants to make you uncomfortable so you will give him part of the attention and loyalty that belongs to Jesus alone.

Why make us uncomfortable? Why look at the ads, hear the commercials and compare with others? It is a scheme to sap loyalty, trust, and contentment away from Jesus. Instead of loyalty to Him, we serve the gadget god. Instead of trusting, we watch the stock market. Instead of being content with the basic needs of life, we want a little more.

Now Mr. America is comfortable. Slouched in his lounge chair, feet propped up, drink and pretzels beside him, he comfortably watches the new, more satisfying color screen. He has it made. That is, till a full color commercial dances in front of him leaving him wanting one more comfort gadget. On his way to flop into his comfortable bed, he glances over his mail, discovers a discomfort—the monthly payments on the comfort gadgets. After he burps up his Pepsi of the "now" generation, it leaves him empty, uncomfortable, and sleepless. Ah—there must be more to life.

There is. It is found in being yielded to Christ, serving Him with all heart, mind and strength. Christians would do well to examine the real issues of life. Then the system wouldn't squeeze you into its uncomfortable mold. We would be content in Christ, doing the things that please Him.

Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

THE MINISKIRT SPEAKS:

Don W. Hillis

I want to make it clear that I am a Christian miniskirt. That is, I go to church every Sunday. What's more, I attend an evangelical Church. Of course, I am not the only Christian miniskirt in town. There are many others who go to my church.

Though we represent a variety of colors and patterns there is one thing we have in common. We all have a way of revealing attractive thighs, especially when the legs are crossed. They tell me that's the most comfortable way to sit.

Unless I am misreading the situation we seem to make our wearers a bit self-conscious. At least the girl who wears me is always tugging at my hem. Though I am not an expert on human nature, this appears to indicate some kind of complex.

I have also noted that we miniskirts have the ability to attract a good deal of masculine attention even at church. At first I took pride in the fact that men are fascinated by my pattern and color design. However, just this morning, I heard the preacher say that this was not really what the young men (some not so young) were looking at. Though I was all ears when he started to preach, "The Appeal Of A Miniskirt," I was embarrassed before he was through.

He claimed that the miniskirt does not appeal to the aesthetic. According to him, there are dozens of other dresses more beautiful than I am. His blanket statement that miniskirts do not make an aesthetic, academic, economic, moral, or spiritual contribution to their wearers left me with a feeling that I was not such a great Christian after all.

He said the only appealing thing about me was my appeal to the flesh. Then he spoke for ten minutes on the carnality of human nature. He publicly accused me of contributing to the lust of the flesh. I felt a hard tug on my hem when he said that!

You could have heard a pin drop in the sanctuary when he quoted the following statement from Kerry Elliott:

"To flaunt sexuality in public is a betrayal of your femininity, not an endorsement. It is like playing the tuba on the subway to prove that you are a musician.

"It isn't honest to expose a man to the aroma of steak and apple pie...., and then accuse him of being a glutton because he licks his lips." I think everyone got the point.

I really blushed when he began asking questions about what we miniskirts did when we were out in the work-a-day world. He wondered what we thought our testimony amounted to in the

presence of men who couldn't care less about feminine purity. He said it doesn't take much to trigger a man's thoughts in the direction of sex. That's why Jesus said, "He that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath already committed adultery in his heart."

The preacher claimed that there is nothing about a miniskirt that would suggest to the man on the street that the wearer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. He said that the Spirit-indwelt body should be adorned in modest apparel (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Furthermore, he had secured some statistics from somewhere that prove that there is a vital relationship between miniskirts and the increase of rape in America. I began to feel as though I was abetting the crime wave.

I suppose it is the truth that hurts. That's why I hurried out of church this morning. I saw several other miniskirts slinking out, too.

I guess what we really need is to be converted into something more modest.

Selected by Brother Lester Flora

LAST THINGS

Life is short and death is sure,
The hour of death remains obscure.
A soul you have and only one,
If that be lost all hope is gone.
Waste not time, while time shall last,
For after death 'tis ever past;
All seeing God, your judge will be,
And heaven or hell your destiny.
All earthly things will speed away,
Eternity, alone, will stay.

Selected



A happy family is but an earlier heaven. —Bowring

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, for our communion services to be November 12th, beginning at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon and the Love Feast proper Saturday night. Sunday, November 13th will be the Harvest meeting.

Come enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinhan, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

On July 13, Bro. Paul Reed, Riner, Virginia, came into our midst and preached the remainder of the week, five spiritual sermons, which we very much appreciated.

Then Bro. Paul Hartz, Palmyra, Pennsylvania came August 23 to 28 for our yearly revival, delivering nine spiritual messages. On August 27, twenty-three Brethren and Sisters surrounded the Lord's table with Bro. Hartz officiating. Other ministers present were Eld. David Ebling, Bethel, Pennsylvania and Bro. Carl Broadwater, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

In the course of the revival we had out-of-state visitors from Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Oklahoma. On Sunday we had a large crowd, a number of congregations were represented, with a fellowship meal following.

From time to time other ministering Brethren have come in to preach for us for which we are thankful, and as a result Swallow Falls attendance is slowly growing. May the Lord bless each minister with guidance, spiritual power, health and physical strength to deliver His message to a sin-sick, dying and lost world. Please pray for the little flock at Swallow Falls.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

TRACT REPRINTED

The tract "Do You Want Salvation" has recently been reprinted after being out-of-print for a number of years. There is a blank space on the back page of the tract so it can be stamped by the Church or individual who is giving it out. These tracts may be ordered from the Editor of the Bible Monitor or from the Secretary of the General Mission Board, Brother Harley Rush.

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215-267-3174
Robert Carpenter
R. 5
Peru, Ind. 46970
317-395-7879

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
Box 188
Cuba, N. Mexico 87013
Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Dr.
Modesto, Ca. 95350
Kyle Reed, Secretary
Minburn, Iowa 50167
Newton Jamison, Treasurer
Quinter, Kansas 67752
Harley Flory
R. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LV

NOVEMBER 15, 1977

NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PRAISE TO GOD

Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days!
Bounteous source of ev'ry joy,
Let thy praise our tongues employ.

For the blessings of the field,
For the stores the gardens yield;
For the fruits in full supply,
Ripened 'neath the summer sky;

Flocks that whiten all the plain;
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain;
Clouds that drop their fatt'ning dews;
Suns that temp'rate warmth diffuse;

All that spring, with bounteous hand,
Scatters o'er the smiling land;
All that lib'ral autumn pours
From her rich, o'erflowing stores;

These to thee, my God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these my soul shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

- Mrs. Anna L. Barbauld

THANKSGIVING

Although we are separated from the time of Moses and the children of Israel by thousands of years, the words of Moses as recorded in Deuteronomy 8 are very appropriate in this season of Thanksgiving. If there were ever a people in the ancient world who should thank God for their untold and innumerable blessings it was this group of pilgrims who had been led out of Egypt and through the desert for these many years. If there were ever a people in the modern world who should thank God for untold and innumerable blessings it is this nation.

We would expect the unconverted and the unrighteous to be unthankful. But we find to our dismay that many who profess to be God's children are also unthankful. The children of Israel many times murmured and complained rather than thank God. They have many descendants today, even in the Church, who are dissatisfied rather than thankful. In Deuteronomy, Moses summed up what had happened to the children of Israel and gave them advice concerning their establishment in the Promised Land after his death. His advice is valid for us today and we should listen to this portion of God's Word. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:16-17.

Moses speaks first of the commands of God. Many would not find anything in God's commands to be thankful for. For many, God's commands represent a burden, a harsh discipline that goes contrary to their nature. Yet, we must consider that God gives us

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

His commands for our own good. If we did not have His commands we would not know what activities in this life would be for our eternal benefit. We should be thankful for these rules so we can know the right way. Moses promises them life and prosperity if they comply, just as we find Spiritual life and joy in our obedience to His commands.

Moses spoke of the various temporal blessings that the children of Israel had received during their forty years of wandering. He pointed out not only the gifts from God but also the humbling and suffering that He gave them first. It is quite easy to be thankful for the good things of life but the undesirable things do not draw forth our thanks so readily. Yet without the humbling and suffering there could not be so much rejoicing in the gifts given. They had to hunger before they could enjoy the manna; they had thirst before they could relish the water from the Rock.

Children do not enjoy their parents' discipline while receiving it, but are thankful for it in after years. The children of Israel did not enjoy God's chastening of them while in the desert. From our present thankfulness for our parents' chastening of us in childhood, we should learn the value of God's present chastening for us. We should be thankful for His interest in our lives.

Our situation in this nation is one envied by those in all parts of the world. We have goods, freedoms and opportunities that are almost unknown anywhere else. Moses spoke of the favors that would be given to the children of Israel. But he cautioned Israel to remember how they had come to enjoy these bountiful blessings. He warns of a time of unthankfulness, a time of self-satisfaction and self-congratulation. Moses warns of them enjoying the prosperity that God gave them, but crediting themselves with earning it. How often today do men commend themselves for what they have accomplished and accumulated in this world without a note of thanks to God?

As Israel eventually drifted away from God, so have many Christians. Israel worshipped the gods of their heathen neighbors until they were "down and out" and realized that only God could deliver them. Many Christians, while desiring the name of God's People and even making a show of serving Him, have slipped away to serve the gods of this world - wealth, fame, fun and power. Often they combine these gods with a show of "religion" to ease their conscience but their natural desires betray them.

The advice of Moses can be summed-up in one word, "obedience." Obedience is a very near relative to the thankfulness needed in our hearts. If we are thankful to God for His benefits we will show it by our obedience to His Will. When our obedience bears its fruit, we will have even more to be thankful for.

The children of Israel had much to be thankful for. We as a nation have much to be thankful for. We as Christians have even more to be thankful for. Let us thank Him not only in word but in obedient deeds.

BE THANKFUL - DON'T GRUMBLE!

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18. God is pleased when we are thankful, not only when things are good, but also when they are not so good. It may not be easy to give thanks when things are going wrong, but grumbling and complaining only adds to our misery. Being thankful makes us feel better and it lifts the hearts of those about us also. In every situation, there is something to be thankful for; look for it.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. When you pray, show appreciation! Don't think of God as just someone to grumble to, when things don't suit you. The Pharisees often found fault with Christ because He didn't do things their way. Our grumbling is about like theirs, for we grumble mostly because we don't get our own way. Rather than complain, we ought to pray from a thankful and trusting heart, then wait for Jesus to do things His way.

Be thankful for other's needs, which are your opportunity to give and to be blessed. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," (Acts 20:35b) but if no one ever had a need, how could you give and be blessed for it? Blessings don't come for giving to those who already have more than enough. When someone needs you, don't grumble just because you must go out of your way to help. Do you think the Samaritan grumbled about going out of his way to help the robbery victim? Apparently not, for he took time out to give first-aid to the injured man. Then, at his own expense, he saw to it that the man was cared for until recovery was complete. (See Luke 10:25-37) We should be glad to help, like the Samaritan was.

When Jesus ate with the publicans and sinners, the scribes and Pharisees grumbled and found fault. If Jesus had wanted to eat with the scribes and Pharisees, they would have grumbled about that. Often we are just like them, because no matter what someone does, we aren't pleased and we grumble. We forget to be thankful, even when we obviously should be. Learn to look for something to be thankful for and happy about, rather than to hunt for something to complain about.

The scribes and Pharisees also grumbled because Jesus not only ate with sinners, but He received them as well. (Luke 15:1-2.) Jesus truly made them welcome when they came to hear Him. Are we thankful because Jesus does receive sinners when they come to Him? Or do we grumble because the sinner may not be desirable company, or is untidy, and it's "beneath our dignity" to associate with such people? We may think someone would fit in better elsewhere, but just remember that Jesus loves all of us as we are. He is not partial, so someone's social status shouldn't make us partial either.

There was grumbling and fault-finding when Jesus went home with Zacchaeus. But that didn't spoil the blessing for him. He was thankful that Jesus wanted to dine with him and he received Jesus joyfully. There wasn't any grumbling because Jesus unexpectedly invited Himself to lunch. If someone else is thankful, don't let it spoil the blessing for you. You can be thankful anyhow and Jesus will bless you for it.

Jesus forgave a man's sins, besides healing him. (Mark 2:3-12.) The scribes didn't like it because they didn't think Jesus had any right to forgive sins. They stuck to their own notions of what was right, when they should have been concerned about what was best for the man. Jesus is Who the man needed, for only Jesus could help him. When you see someone who needs Jesus, be thankful when he or she is set free from sin and given a new life in Christ. Don't grumble, even if it didn't come about in the way you think it should have. The man who was healed and cleansed was thankful, the scribes should have been, and so should we be. If we realize that Jesus can forgive, we will be!

The Jews grumbled because Jesus said that He came down from Heaven. (John 6:41.) Are you thankful that He really did come down from Heaven to save us? Without Jesus and all He has done for us, we would have little to be thankful for, but with Jesus, we have everything to be thankful for. "Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5b. Be glad and thankful for what you have. Don't grumble because someone has more than you do. Things are not important, but Jesus is, and if you have Him, you have everything. You CAN be thankful for that!

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and BE YE THANKFUL." Col. 3:15. DON'T GRUMBLE!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

DEFEATED BY A BLIND MAN

JUDGES 16:24-31

The Philistines were a proud people. They used chariots in battle and knew how to make swords and spears of iron. The Israelites did not know the secret of making iron so they had to pay high prices to the Philistines to make tools to farm with. Because Israel had not been faithful, God allowed the Philistines to rule over them. After many years Israel repented and cried unto the Lord for help. God purposed to deliver Israel by a man named Samson, who was given unlimited strength. Samson loved a Philistine woman named Delilah, who pleaded with Samson to tell her the secret of his great strength. At last, he told her that if his head were shaved then his strength would go from him and he would be as other men. While Samson slept, Delilah had a man shave off the seven locks of Samson's hair and he lost his great strength. The Philistines bound him, put out his eyes, brought him to the city of Gaza, bound him with fetters of brass and put him in the prison house to grind corn.

After a time Samson's hair grew out again. The Philistines did not know or suspect that Samson's strength would return, but it did. The lords of the Philistines were so glad to have Samson under control that they decided to have a great celebration and sacrifice to their god, Dagon, which was an idol. The temple of Dagon was large and held several thousand people. There were nearly three thousand on the roof besides those underneath. The Philistines were laughing and shouting and saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hand." They called for Samson to be brought out of the prison house and made sport of him. Poor Samson, with his feet bound with chains, was led by a boy. He couldn't see - only hear that jeering mob of the enemies of God's chosen people. The strongest man in the world was blind and helpless - so they thought. But God had raised-up Samson to break the power of the Philistines over Israel. Samson said unto the boy that held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars upon which the temple stands, that I may lean upon them."

And Samson prayed to God and said, "Remember me, and strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson took hold of the two pillars, one with his right hand and the other with his left. And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed himself with all his might and pushed against those gigantic pillars.

What do you think happened? The temple of Dagon fell to the ground and on top of those people and killed thousands of the Philistines. Those that Samson killed at his death were more than all that he had slain in his life! The strength of the Philistine nation was broken by a blind man and Israel was free.

Can we trust God to take care of us? When it seems like everything is against us, God will deliver, if we are faithful to Him. God can use a blind man. He can use you!

Brother Rudy Cover

A LETTER FROM MOM AND DAD

Dear Teenage Daughter,

We love you dearly and want to try to help you. We care deeply about you and thank God you came to us for help.

Oh, how we pray that God will forgive us in failing you in meeting your spiritual needs. May, somehow by God's grace, our tears and petitions be not in vain for you. But that He will continually call you unto Him.

I fear we were too concerned about giving you too much meat, in fear of driving you away, Dear. Oh, what a shame, we neglected to share the spiritual food, we received from the sermons we heard from Sunday to Sunday, that fed us richly.

We regret we made you feel we were at ease in Zion because all you dear children are in the Church now. Oh, how well we know how the devil is so shrewd in firing his wicked darts, even at us, your parents.

Dear, we should have taken more time to tell it audibly then maybe just wetting our pillows in secret, that you know not of. For we know the Bible says, "Faith without works is dead." Our works were weak.

May God find mercy and forgive us where we have failed and God bless and give you wisdom and help you to learn by our mistakes.

Pray for us too, that we might reach out and help others and forget ourselves and these worthless, material possessions.

We're praying for you, daughter.

Mom and Dad



The first great gift we can bestow on others is a good example.
—Morell

"NO"

Continued from November 1, 1977 Issue

Daniel. Here is another good example of one who said, "No" and stood true to his God. He had the opportunity of partaking of the fancy things of the king's table, but he would not yield to the evils before him. "... Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..." Dan. 1:8. He, no doubt could have been extremely popular with the young ladies, the so called high-classed and the wealthy socialities in the king's palace. He had his affections set on things above and not on things of this ungodly world. When it came to the test, his answer was, "No."

Joseph. Joseph stood firm for God. In Genesis, chapter 39, we find Joseph down in Egypt with a good job. He was employed by Captain Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers. The Captain liked Joseph and trusted him to be in charge of all. But as Satan would have it, one day, in the absence of the Captain, his wife urged Joseph to commit sin. He refused. ("No.") He said, "...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen. 39:9.

One can declare upon the authority of God's pure and holy Word that the young, and the older as well, can be happy, have fun and live in peace and contentment without being led off into the things of the world. No doubt John, in I John 2:15, when he said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" would include the movies, divorce, adultery, cheating, immodest dress and any thing that is dirty, lewd or low-down. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers... have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21:8.

Young women, hear the word of God, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." I Tim. 5:6. Young man, hear God's word, "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man." Prov. 21:17a. Hear about Moses "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:25. All will profit by following the practice of David. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psa. 119:11.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus. Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner, It must not suffer loss;
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall he lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.

God says, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" Ezek. 18:23a. Hear the Prophet Isaiah, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet,

they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18.

Say, "No," to the Devil and, "Yes," to Jesus.

Brother Ray S. Shank

FACTS TO CONSIDER

1. Trine immersion can be traced by history to the apostolic age of the Church.

2. For the first twelve centuries, trine immersion was the almost exclusive mode of baptism.

3. Nine out of ten of the entire membership of the Christian church, including the Roman Catholics, have been baptized by trine immersion.

4. The Greek church, with a membership of 100,000,000, reading the original Greek language, have always baptized by trine immersion.

5. The Episcopal, (founded in 1534), the Presbyterian, (founded 1541), and the Congregational (about 1550), Churches, baptized by immersion for about one hundred years after they were organized.

6. John the Baptist baptized by immersion in the River Jordan.

7. Christ commanded His disciples to immerse all who accepted His teaching, Matt. 28:19. (Baptizo, at that time, meant everywhere, "immerse repeatedly").

8. Sprinkling was substituted for baptism by uninspired men, and at first practiced only on sick persons who, if they recovered, were then immersed.

9. In every instance of baptism recorded in the New Testament the conditions, as far as stated, are just such as would have been necessary in performing the rite of immersion.

10. In no instance of baptism recorded in the New Testament is there a single condition or circumstance evidencing that the rite was performed by sprinkling.

11. All the figurative language used by Christ and the Apostles in reference to baptism conveys the idea of an immersion.

12. No man, by reading the Bible alone, was ever convinced that sprinkling was the mode practiced by John the Baptist or the Apostles, but many have convinced themselves and been convinced from other sources that sprinkling will do.

Selected from Bible Helps by
Brother W. E. Bashor

A SHUT-IN'S PRAYER WHEN HE ANSWERS, "NO"

When God answers, "No" to your prayer,
And you think you cannot stand the test,
Remember you prayed, "Thy will be done,"
And you know that His will is best.
If we always had bright, warm sunshine,
Our flowers would certainly die,
And without rain, we would never see
The rainbow appear in the sky.

When He seems to send disappointments,
Don't give away to doubts and fears,
We can best catch a glimpse of heaven,
When we look through a mist of tears.
And often in times of affliction,
Our souls draw more close to the Lord,
When trials and burdens overtake us,
'Tis then that we search our His Word.

Keep trusting and loving your Father,
Though He has said, "No," unto thee,
Remember 'twas He that has promised
"As thy days, so thy strength will be."
And if on this earth you never learn
Why God sometimes answered you, "No,"
One day in Heaven you will understand
Why His wisdom has led you so.

- Pauline Ressler

Not long ago, a group of us, young people, got together on a beautiful, Lord's Day afternoon and drove to an old folk's home to sing songs of praises to the people there.

It was really an inspiration to me to be able to do a kind deed for those folks who made their home there. You could tell they really enjoyed those old songs of Zion. Some sang along with us, others thanked us for singing and even others, upon hearing the singing, made an effort to come see what was going on. They were so interested; they sat down in the room and listened till we were done singing.

How many times do we sit idle at home or work when there are ones needing a kind word or deed said or done for them? Proverbs 19:15. Matthew 10:1-16 tells of the householder who hired laborers to work in his vineyard. Each time he went out he saw more people

standing idle who said, "No man hath hired us." The householder then hired them to work for him. It behooves us to always try to be doing those things that are worthwhile in life rather than sitting idle saying, "We have nothing to do!"

Each and every young person should take an interest in the older ones. Did you ever think that if the Lord tarries His coming, someday you will become old too? Then you will wish, "If I only had someone come and visit me once in awhile." I Timothy 5:1-3.

We, as young people, tend to become so busy and wrapped up in the affairs of this world that we hardly have time for any of the Lord's work. Read I Timothy 5:13.

May we ever strive to have our eyes and ears open to opportunities to say a kind word or lend a helping hand to those in need. A person does not have to be old for us to do a kind deed for them. Neither, does it have to be a special occasion for us to show our kindness.

"Be ye kind one to another." "...God loveth a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7.

In Christian love,
Sister Shirley Frick
R. 1, Box 143-A, Lewisburg, Ohio 45338

FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

Today upon a bus, I saw
A lovely maid with golden hair;
I envied her—she seemed so gay—
And oh, I wished I were so fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle;
She had one foot and wore a crutch,
But as she passed, a smile.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two feet—the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,
The lad who served me had such charm.
He seemed to radiate good cheer
His manner was so kind and warm.
I said, "It's nice to deal with you,
Such courtesy I seldom find."
He turned and said, "Oh, thank you, sir!"
And I saw that he was blind.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two eyes—the world is mine.

Then, when walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play;
It seemed he knew not what to do,
I stopped a moment, then I said:
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word,
And then I knew; He could not hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine;
I have two ears—the world is mine.
With feet to take me where I'd go,
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I should know:
I'm blessed indeed. The world is mine:
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

- Unknown

Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

THANKSGIVING AND THANKSLIVING

IDA M. HELM

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalms 34:1-3.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

These scriptures utter a faith that can maintain thanksgiving in time of adversity and sorrow as in prosperity and gladness. At Philippi voices singing and praising God were heard in the jail; the voice came from the innermost prison. The other prisoners listened and wondered, they had never heard the like before and according to the slow working of the law in those days likely some had been in there for years. Who could it be? These sufferers joyful and patient were witnesses for Christ. It was Paul and Silas with their feet in the stocks, their backs bleeding from the scourging that day. They made the prison walls ring with songs of praise to God. God was listening and His abiding power shook open the old prison doors and unloosed the fetters that bound the captives.

No earthly judge or jailer can stand before God's tribunal, and soon His persecuted messengers were sent on their way rejoicing and the jailer made his peace with God. "He careth for you." "In everything give thanks." This may seem hard sometimes, but if we have our heart wholly set on God we can. God will have the whole heart or none of it. God does not give His people impossible things to do.

In Nehemiah 12:31 we read of two great companies in Jerusalem who started near the temple. They moved in different directions and gave thanks to God as they went, and eventually they met in the court of the Gentiles. They were consecrating the gates and wall of the city and giving thanks to God for being enabled to bring the work to completion. In the strength of God they had triumphed over every attempt of the enemy to stop the work, and the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off, and the surrounding nations saw and felt the power of God.

Today we hear rumblings and see dark clouds arise, but if we trust implicitly in God we need not fear the threatenings.

The United States has been richly blessed in 1937. There is plenty for everyone. God has not forgotten His created beings. It is well for us that He is longsuffering and kind. The flowers bloom, the birds sing, the cattle browsing on the rich pasturage. Cold days come and there is fuel at hand. Sunday morning comes and we may go up to the house of God and worship Him with no fear of being apprehended by civil authorities. God makes no mistakes in dealing with His children. We have a tendency to take things for granted. James 1:7 tells us to forget not all His benefits, every blessing we enjoy is a gift from God. The true people of God of all ages have been thankful. Thanksgiving and praise honors God. When we realize that all blessings, both temporal and spiritual come from God, and when we realize our utter dependence on our Creator for everything we surely can not be other than thankful.

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess. 5:18.

Thanksgiving Day is widely observed, but it has gotten to be a day of general fun and feasting more than of religious worship. On every hand we see elaborate preparation for feasting, for fun and frolic. The spirit of luxurious indulgence seems to be rampant, crowding out thoughts of the fact that God is sparing our lives for His glory and some day a just account will be required of us for the use to which we have put them.

Many seem to think life is given to them to do with as they please. It is mercy that God spares them. If God were to deal with them according to their daily living they would be cut off immediately.

The proud Pharisee prayed that he was thankful that he was not like other people. He thought he was so much better than they. It was the humble Publican that smote his breast and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner," that received the commendation of God.

In Rom. 1:21 St. Paul tells us about people that knowing God,

they glorify Him not as God, neither give thanks; but become vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptable God for the likeness of an image of corruptable man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts and creeping things; wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves. (Rom. 1:21-24.)

These people knew God, but revolted from Him somehow, from God to self. We see it today, the tendency to question God's character, His purpose, to doubt His existence.

Someone has said, "Man has spent on these unworthy ways of thinking a great deal of weak and dull reasoning, and imbecile imagination." It leads farther and farther from God in unbelief and unthankfulness. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

There is a thanksgiving that is narrowed down to self-satisfaction. They are glad that they have been peculiarly favored and they never stop to think of the trials and adversities that have come to others. Others look out over the country side and see the suffering and need in many homes and make glad hearts with their giving. Thanksgiving and thanksgiving send up praise to God. This is real, true thanksgiving.

Selected from November 15, 1937 Bible Monitor

THANKSGIVING

Until of myself I gave
I knew not the gift of giving,
Until with love I gave
I knew not the gift of receiving.
Until my heart became grateful
I knew not the meaning of thanksgiving,
Until my thanks became praise
I knew not the joy of the blessing.
Until I sought the God of Heaven
I knew not of His "Unspeakable Gift" to man,
Until I accepted His Son as my Saviour
I knew not the Gift of God's salvation plan.
Until I knew God as my Heavenly Father
I knew not the Grace of God He lovingly imparts,
I knew not the Glory of God in thanksgiving
Until Christ became King of my heart.

Sister Luluvene Yates
West Unity, Ohio 43570

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Brother John Pepper is Route #10, Box 120, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013. His telephone number remains the same.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congregation enjoyed another revival in August with Brother Fred Pifer as our evangelist. We were thankful for the good messages we heard. We were also thankful to have his wife and daughter with us. May God bless him as he goes on in the Work of the Lord. During these meetings one precious soul came forward and knelt for Spiritual help, for which we praise God!

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

- Dec. 4 — Satan Bound One Thousand Years. Rev. 20:1-15.
Dec. 11 — The New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:1-27.
Dec. 18 — The Invitation to "Come". Rev. 22:1-21.
Dec. 25 — THE BIRTH OF JESUS. Matt. 2:1-23.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) How many angels did it take to bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit for one thousand years? Rev. 20:1-3.
- (2) Why is it blessed and holy to have part in the first resurrection? Rev. 20:6.
- (3) Where was John when he saw that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God? Rev. 21:10.
- (4) How big is the New Jerusalem? Rev. 21:16.
- (5) What is absolutely necessary for one to enter this City of God? Rev. 21:27.
- (6) Who are those that should say, "Come and take of the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.
- (7) Was Jesus and Joseph and Mary in the same place where Jesus was born, when the wise men visited them? Matt. 2:11.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER, 1977

THE PROMISED REDEEMER

Memory Verse: Gen. 22:18

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Thur. 1-Gen. 3:1-24

Fri. 2-Gen. 22:1-18

Sat. 3-Gen. 49:8-12

Memory Verse: Isa. 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Sun. 4-Deut. 18:15-22

Mon. 5-Psa. 2:1-12

Tues. 6-Psa. 69:1-36

Wed. 7-Psa. 110:1-7

Thur. 8-Psa. 118:1-29

Fri. 9-Isa. 2:1-4 & 7:14

Sat. 10-Isa. 9:1-7

Memory Verse: Isa. 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Sun. 11-Isa. 11:1-16

Mon. 12-Isa. 42:1-25

Tues. 13-Isa. 53:1-12

Wed. 14-Isa. 59:1-21

Thur. 15-Jer. 23:1-8

Fri. 16-Mic. 5:1-15

Sat. 17-Zec. 3:1-10; 6:12-13; 9:9-10

Memory Verse: Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Sun. 18-Zec. 11:10-13; 12:7-11; 13:6-9

Mon. 19-Mal. 3:1-18

Tues. 20-Luke 1:5-25

Wed. 21-Luke 1:26-38

Thur. 22-Luke 1:39-56

Fri. 23-Luke 1:57-80

Sat. 24-Math. 1:18-25

Memory Verse: Luke 2:30-32

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Sun. 25-Luke 2:1-20

Mon. 26-Math. 2:1-12

Tues. 27-Luke 2:21-40

Wed. 28-Math. 2:13-23

Thur. 29-Luke 2:41-52

Fri. 30-Math. 3:1-17

Sat. 31-Math. 4:1-17

Memory Verses: Isa. 59:20

And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.

Isa. 60:3

And the gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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DECEMBER 1, 1977

NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I THANK THEE, LORD

I thank Thee, Lord, for birds at dawn
For cool green shadows on the lawn,
For roses pearled and wet with dew
As daylight beauty breaks anew.

I thank Thee, Lord, for windswept trees,
For rock-strewn shores and emerald seas,
For magic mountains looming high
Against the azure blue of sky.

I thank Thee, Lord, for nature's boon,
For fields and meadows flower-strewn,
For sunset glow in hammered gold
When twilight's crimson clouds unfold.

I thank Thee, Lord, for stars hung high
In night's deep canopy of sky —
The vast immeasurable dome
That shelters man's eternal home.

— Vincent Godfrey Burns
Selected by Sister Blanche Eberly

DOING WHAT WE CAN

We often dream of great deeds that we might do. Perhaps our dreams run to riches, fame or excellence in the natural pursuits of life. Or if our minds are attuned to God's work, we dream of what we might do in His service. We might dream of great sums of money, we might give to aid His Work. We might dream of our own power to convince and convict sinners so they might be converted. We may dream of many things beyond the abilities God has given us.

Goals and aspirations are very necessary as we press toward our Eternal Home, but their achievement is dependent upon our day-by-day efforts. We have to do what we can with what we presently have at hand. A man can not build a great home until he has driven the first nail. We are building a spiritual house that requires many nails. We have the material but are often unwilling to exercise the daily patience needed to rear that building. There are many great deeds that we can not do, yet Jesus considers the cup of cold water a great act of service. If we find a cup of water at hand it is far better to share it with the thirsty than to pour it out on the ground. We are not to waste the small opportunity which is now available while waiting for a great, note-worthy opportunity which may come along. Usually the note-worthy opportunities come to those who have used the little opportunities to the fullest. Our Spiritual lives are made of more than just great opportunities; they are the sum of all the opportunities we have used.

For our opportunities to be of much value we need to be willing to use them. This is the important thing with God. He accepts our

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

willingness to use what is available. He is not interested in how willing we might be to do great things, if we are not willing to first do what we can. Paul advised the believers at Corinth to do what they had promised to do but to not worry about that which was beyond their power. "Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." II Cor. 8:11-12. He did not excuse them from doing what they promised or what they could do only those things that they lacked the opportunity or the ability. Being excused from a great responsibility does not mean being excused from lesser responsibility which can be done.

Perhaps in thinking about the many deeds that Jesus did during His earthly ministry we often wish we could also do some of these mighty deeds. Certainly the world could use many miracles, naturally and Spiritually. But we have not been given the power to do these miracles, but there are many other things that we can and must do.

Because of the great love that He has shown to us there must be a return of that love or at least a portion of it to Him. Love like faith can not really be demonstrated by itself. It can only be shown by the actions of the one who is doing the loving. God has given certain commands which show Him our attempt at loving Him when we do them. Our obedience is a proof of our love to Him.

Some of His commands are those that govern our actions socially. These commands tell us how to treat our fellowman in a way resembling God's treatment of mankind. Others of these commands are religious. These concern our duties within the House of God. As members of the Church we have various duties to carry out. The Church has been given several ordinances. These ordinances are acts of little value in themselves yet so necessary because of their Spiritual application. We have been recently reminded at a Lovefeast that, while we might wish to do many of the deeds that Jesus did, we can not. But one thing He did do that we can also do is to wash our brother's feet. Here is something that we can do. We have it at hand. Therefore, since it is God's command we must do it. It is the same way with the other ordinances delivered to the Church. We have them at hand, with care we should carry them out. Since we know them and we have promised our obedience, let us do them though they are but humble acts in themselves. Naaman was healed of his leprosy when he obediently plunged himself in the ill-favored Jordan - a humiliating act for a man who wanted to do great things in the

beautiful rivers of his homeland to effect his healing. It is the small things that count.

Are you dreaming of great things you can do Christ and the Church by and by? Are you busy at the little tasks that are now at hand? God wants your daily service.

SOMEONE TO HOLD ON TO

Sometimes I get tired and lonely;
Tired of worrying about things I can't control anyway;
Tired of always trying to do what's expected of me.
And in spite of having my family and friends around me
I'm lonely.

No one seems to pay much attention to anyone else;
Everything seems to be moving so fast —
Sometimes the world seems to be whirling crazily and all
the people rushing around with it
And there's just me — confused by everything, by life.

And then instead of looking around at the mess about me
I look up —
And things are all right because my Heavenly Father is there
and He knows how I feel;
He knows how lost and confused I am, and He reaches down and
takes hold of my hand,
And I know I'm safe —
That even in the midst of all this, there is Someone who
knows and cares, who is solid and not confused like me,
Someone I can hold on to.

I can talk to Him and know that He hears and understands;
And when I'm not certain about something
I know He knows and He'll help me and show me the way.
That way, I don't need to worry about anything —
just commit it to Him.
He keeps me from being lonely and confused.
He's Someone to hold on to.

Sister Brenda Andrews
R. 2, Raymore, Mo. 64083



Every Christian ought to be prayed-up, packed up, and ready to be picked up.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"THY GOD SHALL BE MY GOD"

RUTH 1:1-18

Did you ever think how it would be to live in another country? You would have to learn to speak another language. The customs of the country would be different and the religion of the country might be a false religion. The people there might not believe in the true God like you do.

There was a famine in the land of Judah; there wasn't enough to eat. A man named Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, and their two sons moved into a country called Moab. Here they had more rain and more to eat than they had in the land of Judah. Elimelech liked it so well that he decided to stay, but he died and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married two Moabite women. One was named Orpha and the other, Ruth. After some time, the two sons died and Naomi was left with only her two daughters-in-law. She decided to go back to the land of Judah, for she had heard that the famine was over and the people had plenty to eat.

So Naomi started out for Judah with Orpha and Ruth. Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, return to your mother's house. You have been kind to your husbands and to me and may the Lord deal kindly with you." But Orpha and Ruth didn't want to leave her and said, "Surely we will return with thee unto thy people." Naomi said, "Why will you go with me? I haven't any more sons that they may be your husbands. Go back to your homes and the land where you were born." So Orpha kissed Naomi and returned to her home, but Ruth just wouldn't go. Ruth had learned from Naomi about the God of Israel, who had done wonders for the Israelites. God had delivered them from Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land and had blessed them time and again. Ruth loved Naomi and she loved the God of Israel. Ruth said to Naomi, "Intreat me not to leave thee, for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also if ought but death part thee and me."

Have you found the true God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ? If you have, you can understand how Ruth felt. You will never want to be without that Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. You will never want to leave the One who gave His life for you, nor will you want to be away from His people. You can say to your Brothers and Sisters and Mothers in Christ, "Thy God shall be my God."

Brother Rudy Cover

GOD WOULDN'T DO THAT FOR ME!

"God wouldn't do that for me, would He? I'm not worth much and He wouldn't want me. Why would He bother to give me anything?" Did you ever think that you were so bad that God wouldn't want you, nor do anything for you? You may not be worth much, but your worthiness is not the basis for receiving a blessing. If it were, none of us would receive anything. God has promised us much that He will do, if only we will believe. He cannot lie, so it is only reasonable to expect Him to keep His promises.

God loves us without regard to our helplessness and tendency to sin. His love is not withdrawn when we make a mistake. In fact, it is His love which puts us on the right track in the first place. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1:7. We are forgiven according to His grace (unmerited favor), not on our merit. We deserve nothing, but He gives everything if we will accept it. With such undeserved favor, we can rest securely in God's love. We can know that He means what He says. Yes, God will do this for you!

You may think you're not worth saving, but God thinks so. He loves you so much that He wants to save you, regardless of what you are. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. If you confess your sins, He will forgive you, not because you deserve it but because He wants to. God wants you to be clean and pure, so His cleansing is complete. He doesn't leave one spot of sin. This is one of many promises, He has made, and you can count on God to keep it. Thinking that He surely wouldn't do that for you won't change it.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. Does this seem too good to be true? God makes your cleansing complete, then with the gift of the Holy Spirit, He helps you in your new walk of life. The Holy Spirit is a promised gift, the first of many to God's own. God will give you this gift. Why? Because He wants to, because He knows you need the comfort and guidance that only the Holy Spirit can give. Would God do this for you? Certainly He would!

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. If you want God to do things for you, put Him first. This is the key, for in order to obtain a blessing, whether a natural or spiritual one, God's will must come first in your heart. He knows what you need and will

bless you richly, when you put His will before your own desires. You really aren't ready for His blessings until you do, but when you put God first, He can bless you as He wants to, because He knows you won't misuse it.

Through Christ, you can become a child of God, an heir to all the riches of Heaven. Doesn't it make sense to believe in Christ and accept what God wants to give? Why turn down a blessing like this, when it can be yours so easily? Jesus said He would go to prepare a place for us (see John 14:1-2), not something ordinary, but the best. God has promised us eternal life (see I John 2:25) and He will keep His Word. Do you still think that God would not do this for you, just because you're not worth it? Why wouldn't He, when He said He would?

"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:9. Whether you ask or seek or knock, you will obtain a blessing. It is promised, and so it will be. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. There is no limit to the blessings if you abide in Him. "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mk. 9:23. Again, there is assurance of no limit, if you believe. The only limit is that God's promises are to His own exclusively.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalms 34:19. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. God will always care for His own and sometimes will even use unfortunate circumstances to help you. Even though things get rough, He sees to it that something good comes from it. God has also placed a limit on temptation — just for you — and His promise will not change. (See I Cor. 10:13).

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7. This peace is promised to those who trust Christ. It is not available any other way. This peace cannot be comprehended, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't accept it. It is for you, if you will believe.

So you think God wouldn't do all this for you? He said He wouldn't withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (Psalms 84:11) and He meant it. If you will believe, He will do this for you, and more, too.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

WITNESSES

We have many Biblical characters who knew about the marvelous birth, without a human father, of Jesus, the "only begotten Son of God."

Mary — The angel spoke to Mary, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35. The angel would have Mary remember, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37. Mary's heart was filled with awe and wonder. She had, no doubt, often read Isaiah's prophecy, how a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Slowly and deliberately she uttered, "Be it unto me according to thy word." Luke 1:38. The angel departed from her.

Elizabeth — The angel had told Mary about her cousin, Elizabeth, Luke 1:36. Mary went with haste unto a city of Juda "and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth." Luke 1:40. Elizabeth spoke with a loud voice, "For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." Luke 1:44.

Zacharias — He had a wonderful experience while he executed the priest's office in burning incense in the temple of the Lord. He was puzzled as Gabriel, the angel of the Lord said, "Zacharias: thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shall call his name John." Luke 1:13. While this child was not the Christ, he was "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Joseph — Possibly Joseph, hearing from Mary, said, "But, Mary, things just don't happen this way." Then God sent His angel to Joseph. Now he understood. "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:20-21.

Bethlehem — Later, a weary little donkey plodded up to the Bethlehem inn and stopped. Joseph hurried past the boisterous group at the entrance, only to find there was no room in the inn. The kindly inn-keeper made the stable comfortable. "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.

The Shepherds — They were keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel brought them good tidings of great joy. They were advised of the birth of "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. They decided to go to Bethlehem and see that which had

been made known unto them, "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:16.

The Wise Men — They, having seen His star in the East, came to worship Him. After a session with King Herod, the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother..." Matt. 2:11.

The formation of the child Jesus was a mystery. "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:" I Tim. 3:16a. He is spoken of emphatically as "That Holy Thing," has always been so, and the Apostle admonishes us, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Brother Ray S. Shank

LOOKING FOR THE SUNRISE

I'm not looking for the sunset,
As the swift years come and go.
I'm looking for the sunrise,
And the golden morning glow.
Where the light of Heaven's glory,
Will break forth upon my sight.
In the land that knows no sunset,
Nor the darkness of the night.

I'm not going down the Pathway,
Toward the setting of the sun.
Where the shadows ever deepen
When the day at last is done.
I am walking up the hillside
Where the sunshine lights the way.
To the glory of the sunrise
Of God's never ending day.

I'm not going down but upward
And the Path is never dim.
For the day grows ever brighter
As I journey on with Him.
So my eyes are on the hilltops
Waiting for the sun to rise.
Waiting for His invitation
To the Home beyond the skies.

— Sister Ollie M. Mallow

THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK

by RONALD BORDER

It has been said that the verb "walk" is a Hebraism (Hebrew idiom). It "comprehends the total expression of one's life in the world. The way one walks is the way one lives in the world." Thanks be to God that He has, through His Holy Word, provided us with specific guidelines to govern our life patterns or walk. We wish to consider a few of these imperatives with the prayer that our walk becomes for us a lively responsibility because of our lively hope.

Walk in Him. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." (Colossians 2:6). Upon conversion, we are touched by the love and life of Jesus. Our salvation is received only through our utter dependence upon Him. Only as we are continually dependent upon Him, will we be preserved to "meet the Lord in the air." (I Thessalonians 4:17).

Walk in newness of life. "We also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4). One song says —

The things I used to do, don't do them anymore,

There's a great change, since I've been born again.

A "converted" life must mean "converted" activities. Far deeper than a reformation (turning over a new leaf), a conversion is a transformation (being changed over to a new life—through the blood of Jesus). In the new life, new activities come from a new motivation.

Walk by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7). In the Christian life, our faith enables us to launch out into the deep, accomplishing feats that, from the natural viewpoint, seem quite impossible. Walking in faith is not a "blind leap in the dark." We need the vision and counsel of Christ before attempting anything for God. Great men of God have always seen the end of their prayers through the eyes of faith. God's will is manifested only to the faithful.

Walk worthy of your vocation. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." (Ephesians 4:1). Who is worthy of this high calling? No one of himself! However, as you have been called of God and have yielded yourself to His call, you now walk as a representative of the King upon this earth. As a child of God, you need to keep in mind that people will be looking at God through your life. Does your walk bring honor and glory to God? If not, you have missed the vitality of your calling.

Walk in the Spirit. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall

not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16). Natural man is guided by the flesh; spiritual man is guided by the Spirit. It is wonderful that God has given us a sure Guide in this new life! Not only does God call us to a holy life, but He also empowers and leads us in His Way by His Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit of God, we may have confidence that God — not the flesh — will be served.

Walk in the light. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light..." (I John 1:7). The counsel of God's Word brings us light. Spiritually, we can see only when God's Word illuminates. Yes, we walk by faith — but it is faith in God's Word. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105). Walking according to the counsel of God's Word (the "light") keeps us from the dark paths of sin.

Walk in love. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us." (Ephesians 5:2). It would be highly unlikely for one who is walking close to Christ not to walk in His manner. Our Savior has reached out to us in love. He continually encourages us in love — through the church. A Christian (one who is Christlike) is known far and wide because of his heart of love. It is only natural that we should grow more and more in the likeness of our loving Redeemer (die Quelle des "neuen" Lebens) until that day when "we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (I John 3:2).

Walk after His commandments. "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments." (II John 6). Love is, essentially, not a feeling but an action. If we truly love our Lord, we will assuredly follow after the principles which He has given us in His Word. The Lord has said that His "burden is light." (Matthew 11:30). How true that is! We lose our burdens when we come to Jesus. His commandments are such that they keep us free from the weight of sin. His commandments are not grievous because He helps us to keep them. A solidly principled life speaks of an order and direction not found in the world. What a wonderful Lord we serve!

Walk in wisdom toward the lost. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." (Colossians 4:5). Christian liberty is a wonderful privilege. Nevertheless, we need to exercise care that our liberty might not become a stumbling block (a rock of offense) to the lost. We need a chaste conversation always — in the church, in the home, in our work, and in the community. Walking in wisdom toward the lost means to walk in such a manner as to point their souls to their need — Jesus Christ. Human wisdom will never lead us to this end. Therefore, we must look to Christ for His guidance. The love of Christ, once again, is manifested in this imperative that He encourages us to reach out for others.

Walk circumspectly. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." (Ephesians 5:15). Christians are to walk cautiously (literally, looking around) because the enemy of our souls is waiting to destroy the unwary. To stop at a four-way Stop crossing and look only two ways may not be enough for safety. In like manner, the Christian should always be careful to avoid all the traps of Satan. (To watch for two snares and be captured in the third still brings defeat for the soul!) The fool ignores the danger signals and walks blindly forward. The wise man carefully and responsibly examines the ground he will tread, seeking for the blood-spattered footprints of Jesus.

After all is said and done and our life has run its course, it is the blessing of God that we continue to walk. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." (Revelation 3:4). Our faithful Christian walk will enable us to walk with the Savior in eternity. May God bless us all to this end.

Selected from *The Christian Contender*
by Brother Willard Beam

THE BROADENED PHYLACTERIES

"But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments." Matt. 23:5.

The Jews gave a literal interpretation to Ex. 13:8, 9, 16: "And thou shalt tell thy son in that day: saying, It is because of that which Jehovah did for me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thy hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the law of Jehovah may be in thy mouth. And it shall be for a sign upon thy hand, and for a frontlet between thine eyes: for by strength of hand Jehovah brought us forth out of Egypt." For nearly three thousand years the Jews have worn, in some form or other, portions of the law as a sign upon the forearm and as a frontlet between the eyes. Since the time of our Lord very little, if any, change has been made in the form of the phylacteries. The word is Greek, and its literal meaning is a safeguard. In the synagogues in Jerusalem and among orthodox Jews the world over the phylactery (tephellin in the Hebrew) is worn in time of prayer. Great care has always been taken in making phylacteries. Those in possession of the writer are made of black calfskin and are in the shape of cubes about two inches square, fitted with long, narrow straps used to fasten the leathern cases on the head and to the arm. The calfskin used in making them is most carefully

prepared and the slips of parchment on which are inscribed Deut. 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Ex. 13:1-10, 11-16, which are placed in the boxes are written with specially prepared ink with minute accuracy and neatness. The phylacteries for the head are divided into four cavities, in each one of which is placed one of the four texts referred to; those for the arm have but a single cavity containing all four texts written on a single piece of parchment. In placing the phylactery on the arm it is bared to the elbow and the leather case is fastened to the inside of the arm so as to cross the heart when the arm is folded in prayer. The strap by which it is fastened is wrapped five times around the arm and then twice over and between the fingers. The phylacteries were worn by the men only. The common people wore them during prayers, but the Pharisees in order to make a show of the form of religion wore them all the time and broadened and enlarged them so that all could see their prayer fillets. It was because of this that the Savior rebuked them for making "broad their phylacteries." He did not condemn the wearing of them, but the show and ostentation connected with it. Instead of being a reminder of what God had done for His people, they had become badges of vanity and hypocrisy.

Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
"The Eternal Verities"

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation enjoyed another revival meeting from September 4 through 18 with Bro. Fred Pifer as the evangelist. These meetings were well attended. He gave us Spirit-filled messages. We were glad for the two precious souls who gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized on Saturday afternoon, September 24. We were glad to have Sister Pifer and their daughter, Rebecca, with us.

On Saturday afternoon, October 15 we met for our Fall Love Feast with a good attendance. Ministers present were Elder Frank Shaffer, Brethren Virgil Leatherman, Eldon Mallow and David Kegerreis. In the evening there were about one hundred and fifty who surrounded the Lord's Table with Elder Frank Shaffer officiating.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Here at West Fulton, we have enjoyed two-weeks of revival meetings which began October 2. Bro. Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania was the evangelist.

He preached God's Word with power. The Church was nearly filled every night. On Sundays it was over-filled.

No one accepted Christ as their Savior at this time, but we know the good seed has been sown and trust that it will bear fruit in the future.

We were glad to have Sister Snyder and their family here for a few days during the meetings.

May God bless Bro. Snyder as he continues laboring for his Master.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

We have come to the close of a week of meetings and our Love Feast. We enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Kauffman and Sis. Joyce Smootz with us. Bro. Kauffman preached the Word of God faithfully, making us more responsible to witness for our Lord. May the seed that was sown bring forth results.

We do appreciate the help of Bro. Ray Reed and Bro. Warren Smith in the services over the weekend. May we all go forth with renewed faith and courage in the Lord's work.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed another Lovefeast Sunday, October 30. Visiting ministers throughout the day were Elders: Ray Shank, Howard Surbey, Laverne Keeney, Allen Eberly, Brethren: John Pepper and Jack Snyder.

In the evening approximately one hundred sixty-five surrounded the tables with Bro. Snyder officiating.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

THANK YOU

We want to thank each one in the Brotherhood for remembering us on our twentieth Anniversary. May the good Lord bless each one of you. May we all continue to remember each other in prayer. God bless you all and thank you.

Bro. and Sis. Amos Eberly

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Melvin C. Roesch

P.O. Box 58

502 West Rings St.

West Unity, Ohio 43570

Phone Number: Same

LOOKING AT THE CROSS

In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopped my wild career.
I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agonies and blood,
Who fixed His languid eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.

Sure, never till my latest breath
Can I forget that look;
It seemed to charge me with His death,
Though not a word He spoke.
My conscience felt and owned the guilt,
And plunged me in despair;
I saw my sins His blood had spilt,
And helped to nail Him there.

Alas! I knew not what I did:
But now my tears are vain;
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?
For I the Lord have slain.
A second look He gave, which said,
"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid,
I die that thou mayst live."

Thus while His death my sin displays
In all its blackest hue;
Such is the mystery of grace,
It seals my pardon too.
With pleasing grief and mournful joy
My spirit now is filled,
That I should such a life destroy,
Yet live by Him I killed.

— John Newton
Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder



Turn care into prayer, and God will give you songs in the night.

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Paul R. Myers
c/o Mt. Hope Dunkard
Breth. Home, Rt. 3
Manheim, Pa. 17545

BIBLE MONITOR

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DECEMBER 15, 1977

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee!

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring;

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

— Joseph Hart

CHRISTIANS, CHRISTMAS AND COMPROMISE

This season is one of tinsel, lights and wrappings. It has also become a season of feasting, drunkenness and partying. It is a time of Santa Claus, envy and selfish desire. It is a season of dollar signs, pagentry and frayed nerves. It is in short a season of worldly celebration. It hardly seems to be a season devoted to the Son of God. The meek and lowly Jesus could hardly be found in the glut-tonous, drunken and selfish celebration that bears His name. Yet we who bear His name very easily become caught up in these rites which have only a religious veneer over a commercial and worldly celebration. Indeed, how often are we as Christians guilty of re-enforcing the selfish desire for gifts and the myth of Santa Claus?

The motifs of Christmas are everywhere. Christmas trees, Santa Clauses, mistletoes and many other signs of the holiday. How many are to be found in our homes? Have we allowed the unbelievers of this world to prosper by our participation in their commercialization of our Lord and Saviour? Have we "cast our pearls before the swine" by becoming a part of the world's feasting and frivolity? Have we allowed the greatest Gift ever given to mankind to become a spectacle in the world's insensitive partying? Although the name of Jesus will be spoken often this season, there will be little true worship of the Son of God, who took upon Himself the features of mankind that He might live and die and live again for the benefit of each person. Although there will be many pageants and plays given in His honor, how much honor will a copying of this world's ways bring to our Saviour?

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York; Pa. 17403

It becomes very easy to allow these worldly things into our homes and lives. It is often for the children's sake, or the young people's sake or to "keep peace" in the family. If we were truly interested in their sake or in the "peace that passeth understanding" we would stand for what is truly right. The problem of Santa Claus and the Christmas tree is but a small part of the total problem of compromise in our Christian life. In this season of the year, these are very visible signs of either our stand or our compromise. Yet life continues beyond this season and there are many other occasions that demand we take a stand. Compromise is a continuing problem for Christians as more and more Churches let down their bars against the world. As many become more and more worldly, the Christian who stands on the word of God becomes more and more isolated. Yet even the world in a begrudgingly, admiring way will take note of the one who does not compromise.

Compromise does not come into a person's life or into the Church in large ways but in small, hard-to-recognize ways. But as the leaven "leaventh the whole lump" so compromise works in an unseen but active way to destroy a person's or a Church's influence. It may be the things of the Christmas season that first allow the world to gain a foothold. It may be many other things that gradually lead us away from the firm foundation that was once our undergirding.

As these things of the Christmas season are but a very small part of our total life so are the very things that bring compromise into our Christian lives. They are small. We want to keep peace. We do not want to stir up trouble over something so small. Then the first thing we know, that which was so small has become so large that it may be out of control. Compromise is often found along with pride. While one may become proud of that little piece of gold, that little decoration, that little unnecessary appendage, the real problem with pride is that we may consider ourselves adept enough to handle something that has been denied to us. We become proud of our own supposed, Spiritual strength. We feel we can take these things into our lives without Spiritual harm even though they have proven disastrous to multitudes before us. Somehow the thought enters our minds that these safeguards built for us by the Church just aren't necessary. We think they belong to another age.

In this season of frivolity and pseudo-religious celebration it would behoove us to take a fresh look at our lives. It would be well for us to see if the world has compromised us with its method of supposed worship. Indeed, we might look into all areas of our lives

to see if compromise has begun to get a foothold. Now is the time to stand against sin. It will be easier to get rid of it now than after it has had time to bring forth its harvest of despair and loss. So use this season to good advantage, so you may truly worship the Son of God who laid aside His Glory to come to earth to save fallen man — you and me.

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOUR

The "good tidings of great joy," which the angel chorus told the shepherds, were for "all people." Were they meant for you? Try to think, not that He came for the world as a whole, but that He came to bring salvation to YOU. It is true His plan includes all men; salvation is available to everyone who chooses to accept it. How thankful we can be for a very close, personal Friend. At the same time, His Love encompasses all true believers and gives them a "family" feeling for one another. Still the Saviour is reaching out, is calling.

"Unto you," prodigal, "is born a Saviour." You have heard the Word countless times, yet recklessly spend your time and money for things which do not satisfy your soul. Can you see how eagerly the Father awaits your homecoming? His servants have "bread enough and to spare, and (you) perish with hunger."

For you, with a sinful habit, the Saviour offers a transformed mind. Without the naming of the numerous vices, you will know whether this speaks to your need. Compare this, "God hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus;" to your present situation. (Ephesians 2:6).

Are you lonely and discouraged because no one cares what happens to you? Think back to the precious promise in Hebrews 13:5. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Do you fear trouble and the evil which surrounds you? Hebrews 13:6 says, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

To the one who once walked in ways of Truth but has strayed, Jesus is the Light to illuminate the pathway back to God.

Old or young; rich or poor; single, married or widowed; ill or healthy; whatever your nationality, God sent His Son to save YOU from your sins.

Although Jesus came into this world quietly and humbly, He deserves praise as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Revelation 19:16. May God's "family" rejoice that He who rules over all, at the same time, dwells in each heart. "For unto YOU is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

Sister Edith Moss
1138 E. 12th St., Beaumont, Calif.

BIRTH OF JESUS

The Holy Spirit carefully guarded the virgin birth of Jesus. David knew that the Messiah should descend from his loins. "...according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne." Acts 2:30. God promised him a son, the throne of whose kingdom should be established forever. "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set-up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom." II Sam. 7:12.

All Israel knew that the Messiah was to be the son of David, that is according to the flesh, He should be so by human nature. Otherwise, according to the Spirit and by Divine nature, He was to be David's Lord, not his son.

Solomon was chosen to succeed his father, David. Follow the royal line of David and we find Jesus was to receive His body through the loins of David and His royal standing through David's son, Solomon. All that was necessary was for a child to be born in the royal line of Solomon and he would be eligible for kingship. A difficulty arose because of an ungodly king, Jer. 22:20. God overcame this difficulty by the union of Joseph and Mary, a virgin, Matt. 1:24-25. In Matt. 1:1-17, we have the genealogy of Joseph through David and Solomon. Jesus received His body through the loins of David through Mary. He fell heir to the throne of David through Solomon.

Jesus's claim to the throne of David was absolutely without a flaw. The promise to David comes into the New Testament unchanged, when the angel informed Mary, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David." Luke 1:32. The son is of the same nature as the father. Those who are the children of God by adoption or regeneration, are truly great, "Sons of God." I John 3:1-2 confirms this, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..."

Brother Ray S. Shank

WHITE MAN'S GOD?

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11. People's minds are drawn to thoughts about Christ's birth by this season's activities. Some believe Jesus truly is their Saviour. Some believe He was just a good man. Still others reject everything concerning Christ, but that doesn't change the

fact that He was born to be the Saviour of all people. That means every color and type of human being, not just a privileged few.

Jesus is God's gift to us, a very precious gift. If God's gift means anything to us, we will be thankful. We can say "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" II Cor. 9:15, but if we really mean it from the heart, we will act thankful. This means sharing Jesus with others however we can, whenever we can. He is a gift which we can't keep to ourselves. Are you willing to share your Savior with others?

Most of you who read this are white. You believe in God; you believe that Jesus came to this earth to save sinners. The question is, is He just yours, a white man's God? Is He the God of just the Dunkard people, or of some other denomination? Or are you willing to share Jesus with others, maybe someone like Steven? Steven Trujillo is an older Navajo, whom I met recently, while at Torreon. He has Parkinson's Disease, and because of it, he has difficulty speaking. Even so, he obviously enjoys having someone talk to him. He needs Jesus, and he has previously expressed a desire to be saved. Will you share your Savior with Steven?

Steven came to the Wednesday evening service at Torreon Mission the same day I met him. After the service, I saw him standing behind a small tree beside the entrance to the Church. He was in the shadows, hiding from the children who laugh at him and make fun of his shaking hands and tongue. He is a man, but he acts like a scared little boy. He needs someone to care; will it be you?

Time is running out for Steven. He recently was in the hospital nearly a month with pneumonia. His health will continue to deteriorate. Does it matter to you that he hasn't yet been baptized, that his mind can't seem to grasp the seriousness of his situation? Or is he just another Navajo to you? Jesus cares about Steven and you should also. Jesus came to this earth for Steven's sake as well as yours. Steven is handicapped by his health problems, if he is to go the whole way with Jesus, someone must help him. Someone must really care about him!

Steven has already heard that Jesus was born as a Babe in Bethlehem, that Jesus came to save everyone regardless of race or color. But this won't mean anything unless someone really cares about him and shows it. He's hurting inside because of a problem he can't help. It is a hurt that only love can take away. Jesus gave each of us, who really know Him, the capacity to love and care and help, even when it is humanly impossible. This is the kind of love Steven needs, the only kind which will touch his heart and enable him to trust in Jesus.

There are three steps a sinner takes before he can be saved. First, he learns to trust you; second, he learns to trust God as your God. Then last, he steps out on faith and trusts Jesus as his own personal Savior. For the first step, you must be trustworthy and truly be the sinner's friend. For the second, you must show that you trust God and are happy in serving Him. For the third step, you must show that with Jesus, there is peace because your sins are forgiven. There is joy because now Someone always cares about you, even if no one else does. The color you are is not important.

We can't all be Steven's personal friend, the one he trusts before he completely trusts Christ. But each of us can be someone's friend! Jesus came to save Steven; He also came to save Little Mike, a Navajo boy. Little Mike can't understand much English, but his eyes light up at "I love you" in Navajo. If we are Mike's friends and share Christ with him, someday we will see his eyes light up when we say "I love you, but Jesus loves you much more." Is it worth the effort it takes to be a friend, a stepping-stone to Jesus? Jesus gave all He had to give for you and me. Dare we do any less for those who need Him?

When Jesus came to this earth, He began His life as a baby. Then He grew to manhood and assumed the task He came for. He came to save the Mikes, the Stevens and the skid-row bums; He came to save the morally-good person along with the worst sinner. Why? Because Jesus was born for all and He gave His life for all. Salvation is limited only where there is belief. If Jesus means anything to you, you won't try to keep Him to yourself. You won't limit Him to the capacity of a baby or a human being, nor of just a white man's God. You know Jesus is the Son of God and has the power to save all who receive Him into their hearts, so you will share Him with whoever you can.

"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:35. The words of the children's song, "red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight," are so true. Jesus is not just a white man's God; He is the God of the Navajo or whoever will do His will. Share Him with someone, won't you, even if that someone is different than you!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
Pioneer, Ohio 43554



Falsehoods not only disagree with truths, but usually quarrel among themselves. —Webster

THE BLESSINGS OF BIBLE STUDY

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

Timothy had been raised in a faithful home. Quite evidently he had been deeply impressed by the faithful lives and teachings of Grandmother and Mother. Later Paul taught and trained the young man for the Christian ministry. Soon he was placed in charge of a congregation of Christians. Paul, deeply concerned for him, was praying "day and night" for his success.

Jesus had promised (Matt. 23:24) to send scribes. The Holy Spirit was soon stirring Christians, who had that talent, to write. In addition to the Old Testament, Timothy, quite likely had access to one or more of the Gospels and Paul's writings. With his faith in Jesus, the Scriptures, when studied, would make him wise unto Salvation. (II Tim. 3:16). The written word illuminated by the Holy Spirit, brings sweetness of "Joy unspeakable and full of glory." His preaching and teaching was to be interspersed with further times alone with God and His written Word.

Paul himself was a Bible student unto the end. In this last letter, written from prison in Rome, he directs Timothy, "The cloke that I left at Troas, with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." II Tim. 4:13. Anticipating martyrdom at any time, he longed for his study books at the end.

Bible study promotes meditation, "that sweet employment of the soul," as someone called it. In meditation, the soul seeks the revealed truth of God, in order to apply it to the present problems of life. This with praise and prayer keeps the mind alert and poised for emergencies and for God-given opportunities to witness for Jesus.

The soul longs for freedom of action and finds it in the Truth of God's Word. Jesus said, John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Bible supplies many words for constructive thought, decision and action. Idle words, like profanity, are an admission of willing ignorance and lack of study. Unless repented of in confession, they are obstacles to truth, and will follow us to judgment.

In Bible study, the past centuries fall away and many lovable Bible characters become our loving friends, anxious to help. Timothy's mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, are our sisters in the Lord. Through the grace of God, they lent their tongues to the cause of Truth, and to spread of the Gospel. Paul was not the only one who prayed for the young minister, Timothy. They in the

home knew how to give that "word in season" to a small boy who backed it up with prayer and holy living.

Some educators say that according to secular standards, the Bible has come to us on a fourth grade level. This would suggest a good time for the young student to have a Bible for a personal possession. As God's written word to us, It deserves to be kept in a certain place and to be handled carefully and reverently. Timothy from a child knew the Holy Scriptures. They made him "...wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Tim. 3:15.

God's Truth is eternal. We do not seek new truth. Jesus declared that He was and is the Truth. He spoke words of Truth, and declared "...they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. Again, "...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4. Again He said, John 12:48, "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

We desperately need God's Word given by Jesus to us. First for the salvation He bought for us with the price of His blood. Then as Christians we need to daily feed the soul on His Word as the bread of life. Our's is the need of making many right decisions and speaking right words that will honor our Lord. But we face a frowning world. A host of wily, evil spirits seek our downfall. From within, fleshly lusts and pride make demands to gratify the flesh.

We are responsible for our decisions. Christian dads at work, Christian home-keepers, Christian children in schools, and Christians everywhere need to make many decisions for Christ throughout each day.

In Bible study we "ask and receive." We "seek and find." We knock on doors only God can open. The Bible supplies the words. His Holy Spirit within gives light and understanding. These are Throne Room experiences. From here a heavenly language of true words is started and developed for everyday use. More, there will be Divine enablements for overcomings in each day of life.

Jesus taught us to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matt. 6:13. And, again He says to sleepy disciples, "Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." How indeed, dare we talk of being saved, if there are no daily savings and deliverings from temptations and from sin?

Sin is exposed in the Bible in positive clear words. We might expect an especial list of sins, but this is not the way of the Spirit. God's Truth as light exposes sin. There are sins, both of commission and of omission. Each Christian has He, who abides within, who both guides and reproves. For victory, sins, both secret and open, need to be named and confessed before God. He desires our heart honestly before Him.

Group Bible study should be a big help in personal Bible study. The hunger and thirst for righteousness is increased. The Holy Spirit ever seeks to lead to the green pastures and living waters which satisfies and rests the soul. Brotherly and Sisterly love is encouraged as many opportunities open to glorify our Lord in active service for Him.

"Thy words were found, and I did not eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jer. 15:16.

Your brother in Christ,
James D. Cover

A WELL OF WATER

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Rev. 22:1.

We left Monte Fresco after the sun had already set. As our horses worked their way up the steep trail, the colors of the fading sunlight outlined the familiar volcano, Mombotombo, behind us. When we got closer to the top we could easily make out the lights of Managua at the other end of the lake. The trail going down the other side was steeper yet, but the horses knew the trail well enough that we could put our total confidence in them. The other riders on the trail below me looked like phantoms as they passed through patches of the bright moonlight. The night was without sound except for the noises of the saddle leather and the horses hooves on the rock. It was a perfect time to reflect on the day's work.

The well that is being made is the present community project. Water is a very basic need and sanitary water is very hard to find in a place like Monte Fresco. It only rains enough to barely raise crops, let alone to make enough for drinking water. The underground water supply is usually under twenty feet of solid rock. These people believe that a good well is something of a miracle, a real gift, direct from God. By helping them make their well we can show our love and concern for them and be a channel of God's grace and mercy to them. But we have an even greater task. We want to introduce these people to the One who can give them living water, water that can satisfy their deepest thirsts so they will never thirst again.

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living

water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:10-14.

Brother Delbert Swihart
Apartado 3305
Managua, Nicaragua, C. A.

CHRISTMAS

1. What is it?
2. Where did it originate?
3. Why does the Church call it the birthday of Christ?

Christmas is a wolf in sheep's clothing; it is devil worship disguised in a Christian name; it is a tool of the devil designed to mix Christian and heathen worship into one apostate church. Christmas is the tendency on the part of Christians to meet paganism halfway.

Long before the birth of Christ, the heathen honored the son of the Babylonian Queen of heaven with a riotous festival on the 25th of December, the time of the winter solstice when the sun was beginning its new cycle.

In Gen. 10:8-10 after the waters of the flood had receded there was a seed on the earth that would bring forth after its own kind just as in Gen. 1:9-12. This seed was Nimrod and he formed a root which was Babel, Gen. 10:10. This root branched out into all the earth, Gen. 11:9, and formed a great tree which we see in Rev. 17.

Pentacost is the anti type of Gen. 11. Confusion of tongues was reversed, the seed of the Holy Spirit was planted and formed the root which is the church of Jesus Christ. The church branched out and went everywhere preaching the Word of God, Acts 2:1-8; 8:4.

Going back to Babel now. When the people were scattered they too went everywhere teaching their devil worship, but because of their confusion this idolatry took on many different names, such as Ashtaroth and Baal, Judges 2:13; Tammuz, Ezek. 8:14; and Dagon, Judges 16:32, just to name a few. With each name there were rituals, customs, and ceremonies to fit the fears and lusts of the people involved. Just remember, no matter what the name, it is still devil worship.

In the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel this Babylonish root was planted by the devil in the garden of God (the children of Israel) and brought forth idol and sun worship, Ezek. 8:15-16. This worship had rituals and customs of which one was the cutting down of a tree, fasting it with nails and decorating it with silver and gold, Jer. 10:1-8. God called Jeremiah to root out these doctrines and customs, Jer. 1:10, but the people replied, "we will not harken unto thee, but we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth," Jer. 44:16-17. And so it was not rooted out by the faithful ministry of Jeremiah, but was passed on from Babylon to Assyria to Greece to Rome; yes, from the head of Daniel's image of idolatry to the foot thereof. Dan. 2.

The Romans then took this devil worship, put it into a winter festival and called it the Saturnalia, in which they worshipped the sun god by celebrating his birthday on the 25th of December. (The American Peoples Encyclopedia). Customs of the Saturnalia were feasting, drinking, dancing, singing, giftgiving, and burning candles. (Encyclopedia International). Christmas is a transformed pagan celebration of the winter solstice. (Encyclopedia Britannica).

In the fifth century the Roman Church, in order to win the pagans into intellectually accepting Christ and increase their church membership, adopted this heathen festival and called it Christ-Mass, taking the old customs and rituals and dressing them in Christian names and meanings.

FABLE - a feigned story enforcing some truth. The Bible teaches that we are not to give heed to fables. I Tim. 1:4. The Bible teaches that fables are cunningly devised. II Pet. 1:16. The Bible teaches that Christianity, in the last days, will not endure sound doctrine, but will heap to themselves false teachers who will turn their ears to fables. II Tim. 4:3-4.

To try to put Christ into Christmas is like trying to put new wine into old bottles, Christ will be lost, Matt. 9:17. It is like trying to put the Ark of God into the house of Dagon, those who do it will suffer spiritual sickness, I Sam. 5:1-6. The Pharisees tried to put God in their traditions and God's word became ineffective and their worship vain, Matt. 15:1-9. You cannot teach the birth of Christ when it is coupled with a lie and expect God's blessing.

"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deut. 29:29. No man knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, it is God's secret, but many there have been who have set dates and made false prophets of themselves. Those who teach that the 25th of December is Christ's birthday are false prophets, for that day is also God's

secret, it has not been revealed to man, because God does not want us making a celebration of His Son's holy birthday.

The crucifixion of Christ was such a tremendous spiritual experience for Christ's disciples that three days later they were still talking about it. Luke 24:13-15. If Christmas holds the spiritual significance that Christianity says it does, why is it that the next day the conversation is on the material things that were received? Has it lost its significance so soon? Or have we been plainly seduced?

If you want your children to look for the coming of the Lord, then don't teach them about Santa Claus. If you don't want your children seduced by the spirit of Hollywood, then do not allow them to act and pretend in Christmas plays and pageants. Parents, if you don't want your children caught by the spirit of dancing and drunkenness then separate yourself from the spirit of feasting and gift giving. If you want your children to believe God's Word, then confess that the 25th of December is not the birthday of Christ. Humbly confess that Christmas has been but a tool of the devil to materialize, carnalize, and degrade the Church of Christ.

Satan used Balaan to teach the children of Israel to mix with the heathen just as they were about to enter the Promised Land and many of God's people lost their inheritance. As we are getting close to the coming of the Lord and our eternal inheritance flee false prophets and their mixed Gospel.

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." I John 5:21.

Selected by Sister Bridget Smith

NOTICE

We are using a different method in our Sunday School Lessons for 1978. Instead of studying a whole chapter, as we have done in the past, we have tried to give the lessons as subject material, similar to the way a minister would study for a sermon. This will involve more study but the teacher and the class also, as references will have to be obtained from other parts of the Bible on the subject for discussion.

We hope this will lead to a better understanding of the Scriptures and that we can grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Truth. Paul says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

— The Bible Study Board

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

A FRIEND IN NEED

RUTH 2:1-23

Did you ever feel that you needed a friend, someone who would help you when you didn't know what to do? Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth returned from the land of Moab and came to the city of Bethlehem. When they arrived, they were poor and hungry and tired. Naomi said to some of her friends, "I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty."

It was the time of the barley harvest in the country around Bethlehem. There was a relative of Naomi's husband, who was very rich and important in the city. His name was Boaz. He was harvesting barley. It was the custom that after the reapers had gathered the grain the young girls would go out and glean the fields, picking any heads of barley that the reapers had missed or dropped. Ruth had asked the over-seer to let her glean in the field. She was working with the others. When Boaz saw her, he asked his servant who she was. The servant said, "She is the Moabite damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab." When Boaz knew who she was, he told her not to work in any man's field but his and to stay close to the other girls who were working for him.

When Ruth heard this she fell on her face to the ground and said to Boaz, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, seeing that I am a stranger?" And Boaz answered, "I have been told all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband and how that you left your father and mother and your native land and now you have come unto a people that you never knew. And the Lord recompense your work and a full reward be given you of the Lord God of Israel."

Boaz invited her to eat with him at noon time. She sat by the reapers and Boaz gave her parched corn to eat. After dinner she went into the fields again. Boaz commanded his reapers to let fall some of the barley on purpose so she would be able to gather more. In the evening Ruth beat out the grain of the heads she had gathered. She had about seven and one half gallons of grain that she took home to Naomi. Naomi was pleased because now they would have something to eat. Ruth said that Boaz told her she could work for him until the harvest was ended.

Boaz was a friend in need when Naomi and Ruth needed one most. Did you know that Jesus is your friend? He will help you in every time of need.

Brother Rudy Cover

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Melvin Roesch is: Box 58, 502 West Rings Street, West Unity, Ohio 43570.

FEBRUARY 1st ISSUE

It is now time for all changes for the February 1st issue to be sent to the Editor. He would appreciate it if they could be in hand by January 1, 1978. Thank you.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

On October 22, the Englewood Congregation enjoyed another Lovefeast. We were happy to have so many come to be with us for the meeting, especially the ministering Brethren. Ministers were Brother Jacob Ness, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania; Brother Howard Surbey, Walnut Grove, Maryland; Brother Edward Johnson and Brother Melvin Roesch, West Fulton, Ohio and Brother George Replogle and Brother Paul Blocher, Englewood Congregation.

They gave us much food for the soul. May we use the messages given us in living a more consecrated life for our Master.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY

- Jan. 1 — Jesus, the Word. John 1:1-14.
Jan. 8 — The Witness of John, the Baptist. John 1:15-34.
Jan. 15 — "Come and See." John 1:35-51.
Jan. 22 — "Whatsoever He Saith Unto Thee, Do It." John 2:1-12.
Jan. 29 — Cleansing the Temple. John 2:13-25.



It is some compensation for great evils, that they enforce great lessons. —Bovee



If you do what you should not, you must bear what you would not. —Franklin

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1978

CORRUPTION

Memory Verse: Psa. 90:12

So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts
unto wisdom.

Sun. 1-Psa. 90:1-17

Mon. 2-II Chron. 27:1-9

Tues. 3-Neh. 1:1-11

Wed. 4-Job 17:1-16

Thur. 5-Psa. 14:1-7

Fri. 6-Psa. 16:1-11

Sat. 7-Psa. 38:1-22

Memory Verse: Psa. 14:1

The fool hath said in his heart,
There is no God. They are corrupt,
they have done abominable
works, there is none that doeth
good.

Sun. 8- Psa. 49:1-20

Mon. 9-Psa. 53:1-6

Tues. 10-Psa. 73:1-28

Wed. 11-Prov. 25:1-28

Thur. 12-Isa. 1:1-31

Fri. 13-Isa. 38:1-22

Sat. 14-Jer. 6:1-30

Memory Verse: Psa. 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in
hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine
Hoy One to see corruption.

Sun. 15- Eze. 16:44-63

Mon. 16-Eze. 20:33-49

Tues. 17-Eze. 28:1-19

Wed. 18-Dan. 2:1-23

Thur. 19-Dan. 2:24-49

Fri. 20-Dan. 10:1-21

Sat. 21-Dan. 11:1-25

Memory Verse: Isa. 38:17

Behold, for peace I had great
bitterness: but thou hast in love
to my soul delivered it from the
pit of corruption: for thou hast
cast all my sins behind thy back.

Sun. 22- Dan. 11:26-45

Mon. 23-Hos. 9:1-17

Tues. 24-Jon. 2:1-10

Wed. 25-Zeph. 3:1-20

Thur. 26-Mal. 1:1-14

Fri. 27-Mal. 2:1-17

Sat. 28-Math. 6:19-34

Memory Verse: Mal. 1:14

But cursed be the deceiver,
which hath in his flock a male,
and voweth, and sacrificeth unto
the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am
a great King, saith the Lord of
hosts, and my name is dreadful
among the heathen.

Sun. 29-Math. 7:1-29

Mon. 30-Luke 6:27-49

Tues. 31-Luke 12:13-40

Memory Verses: Lay not up for
yourselves treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break
through and steal: But lay up for
yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth
corrupt, and where thieves do not
break through nor steal: For
where your treasure is, there will
your heart be also.

Luke 6:43

For a good tree bringeth not forth
corrupt fruit; neither doth a
corrupt tree bring forth good
fruit.

